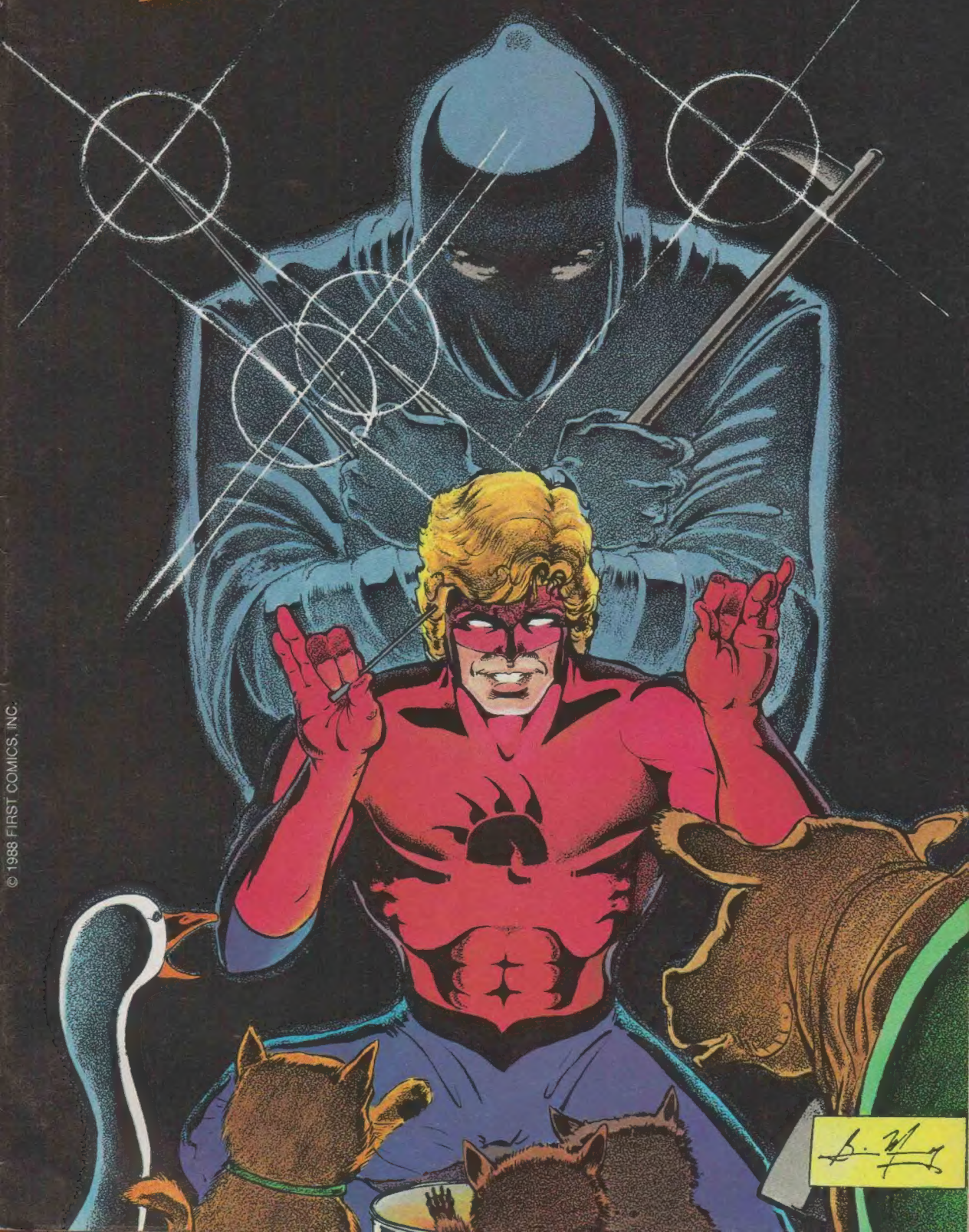


BADGER

TM



B. M. J.

WHO ARE THESE GUYS, ANYWAY?

The **Badger** is **Norbert Sykes**, a Vietnam veteran suffering from an extremely rare multiple personality disorder, which has its origins in childhood trauma. Seven great personalities in one. The personality most frequently inhabited by Norbert, indeed almost *exclusively preferred*, is the Badger, a self-styled crime fighter who rides the highways and by-ways of America, meting out bloody justice to jaywalkers, ticket scalpers, indifferent teenaged fast food clerks, in fact, *any damn body he feels like because he's CRAZY!*

Badger is an expert at hand-to-hand combat. He began his training in Shorin-ryu but has since gone on to master dozens of obscure, esoteric, arcane, not to mention abstruse martial arts, the likes of which you seldom hear about.

He can also talk to the animals — just like Dr. Doolittle, or Lorne Greene. Only Badger gets better results than Lorne Greene.

Badger lives with **Ham the Weather Wizard** in a castle south of Barneveld, Wisconsin. Ham and Badger met while both were inmates at a state mental hospital. Through cunning and chicanery, Ham has amassed a considerable fortune.



Don't miss the **Badger/Nexus** six-issue crossover mini-epic continuing in **Nexus #47**, and the **Badger/Sable** crossover in **Crossroads #2**. Both on sale this month!

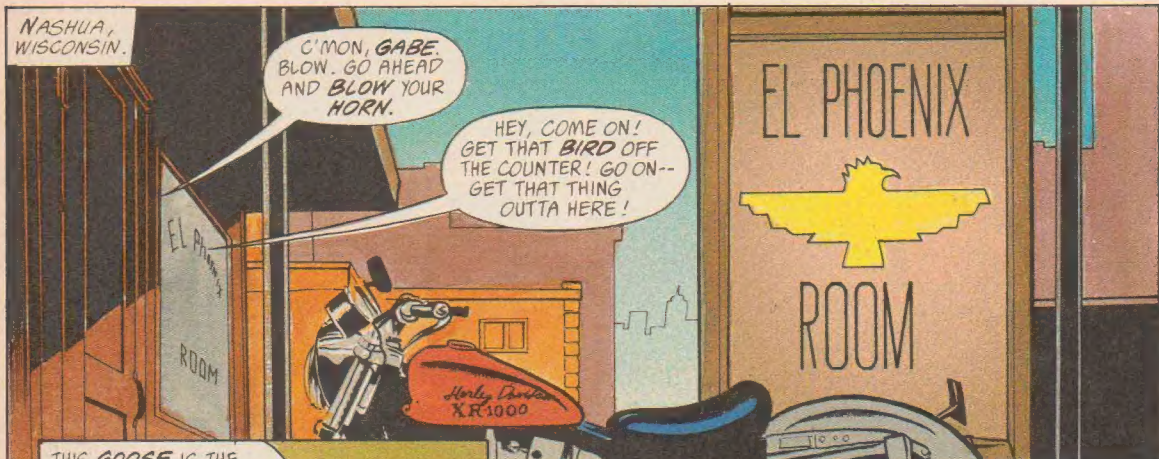
Rick Obadiah, Publisher
Kathy Kotsivas, Operations Dir.
Kurt Goldzung, Sales Mgr.
Ralph Musicant, Finance Dir.

Rick Oliver, Editorial Director
Alex Wald, Art Director
Rich Markow, Traffic Mgr.
Mike McCormick, Production Mgr.

BADGER™ Vol. 1, No. 38 August, 1988 .Published by FIRST COMICS, INC., OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610. Published monthly. Copyright © 1988 First Comics, Inc. All rights reserved. Price: \$1.75 in the U.S. Subscription rates for twelve issues: \$21.00 in the U.S., \$23.00 in Canada, and \$40.00 foreign rate. All payments must be in U.S. funds. The stories, incidents, and characters mentioned in this publication are entirely fictional. No actual person, living or dead, without satiric content, are intended or should be inferred. The Badger, Clonezone and all prominent characters featured in this issue are trademarks of First Comics, Inc. Printed in the U.S.A. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changed to **Badger**, c/o First Comics, Inc., 435 N. LaSalle, Chicago IL 60610.

A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION





NASHUA,
WISCONSIN.

C'MON, GABE.
BLOW. GO AHEAD
AND BLOW YOUR
HORN.

HEY, COME ON!
GET THAT **BIRD** OFF
THE COUNTER! GO ON--
GET THAT THING
OUTTA HERE!

EL PHOENIX



ROOM

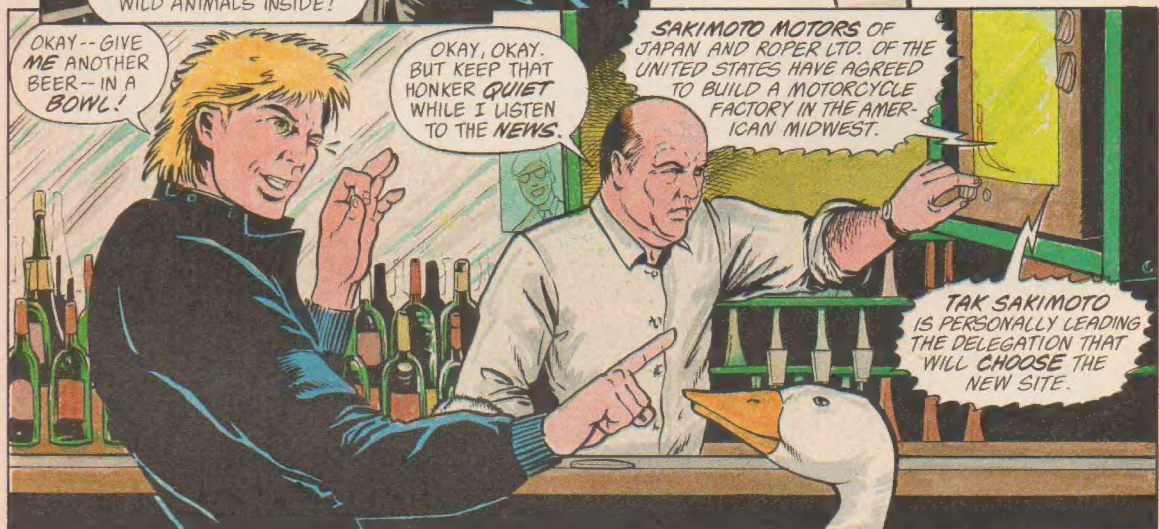
THIS **GOOSE** IS THE
GREATEST THING ON
TRUMPET SINCE WYNTON
MARSALIS!



MISTER, WE GOT A CITY
ORDINANCE ABOUT KEEPING
WILD ANIMALS INSIDE!

WILD ANIMAL?! THAT TEARS
IT! WE **WERE** GONNA FAVOR
YOU WITH A **RECITAL**, BUT
NOW WE'RE NOT. SOON'S
GABRIEL FINISHES HIS
BEER, WE'RE HISTORY!

I WILL NOT
SERVE A
GOOSE A
BEER.

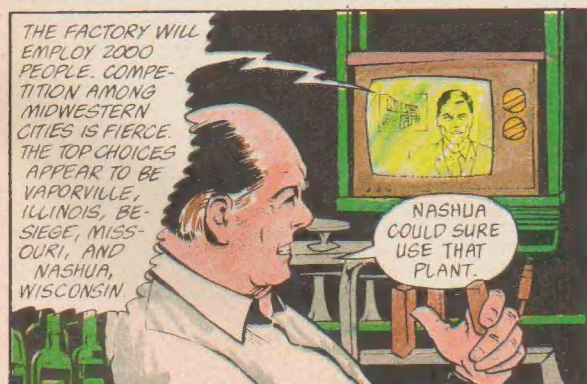


OKAY--GIVE
ME ANOTHER
BEER--IN A
BOWL!

OKAY, OKAY.
BUT KEEP THAT
HONKER **QUIET**
WHILE I LISTEN
TO THE **NEWS**.

SAKIMOTO MOTORS OF
JAPAN AND ROPER LTD. OF THE
UNITED STATES HAVE AGREED
TO BUILD A MOTORCYCLE
FACTORY IN THE AMER-
ICAN MIDWEST.

TAK SAKIMOTO
IS PERSONALLY LEADING
THE DELEGATION THAT
WILL **CHOOSE** THE
NEW SITE.



THE FACTORY WILL
EMPLOY 2000
PEOPLE. COMPE-
TITION AMONG
MIDWESTERN
CITIES IS FIERCE.
THE TOP CHOICES
APPEAR TO BE
VAPORVILLE,
ILLINOIS, BE-
SIEGE, MISS-
OURI, AND
NASHUA,
WISCONSIN.

NASHUA
COULD SURE
USE THAT
PLANT.

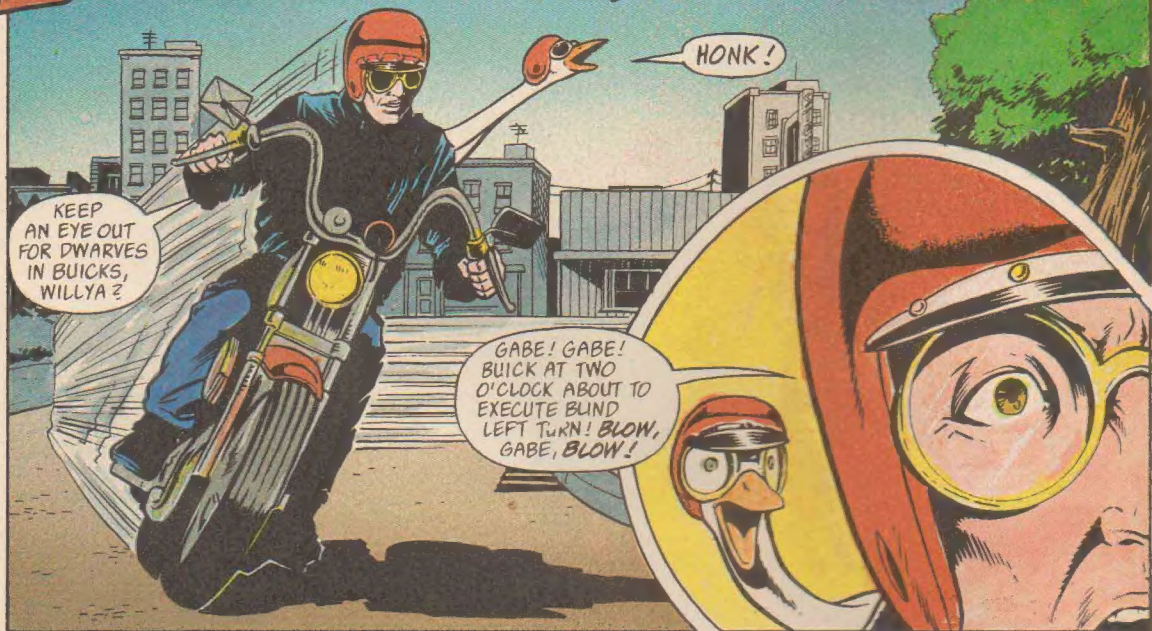


YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.
THIS TOWN'S BEEN ON THE
SKIDS SINCE THE OLD
STUDEBAKER PLANT
CLOSED.

AND THAT'S
A MIGHTY
LONG TIME.



BADGER GABRIEL, BLOW YOUR HORN



Mike Baron Brian Murray Jim Nelson Bill Oakley David LeBoy Rick Oliver

WRITER

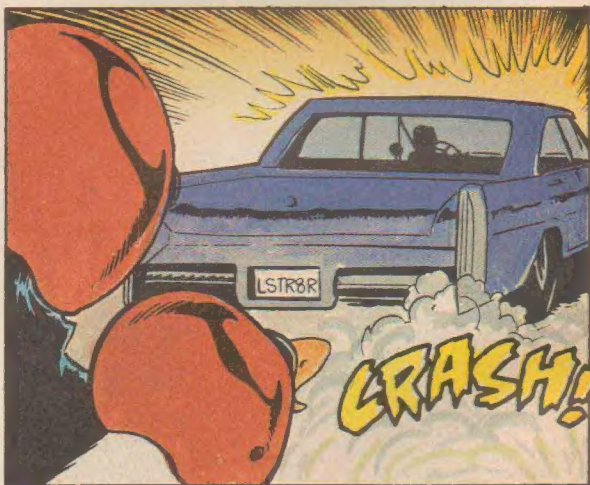
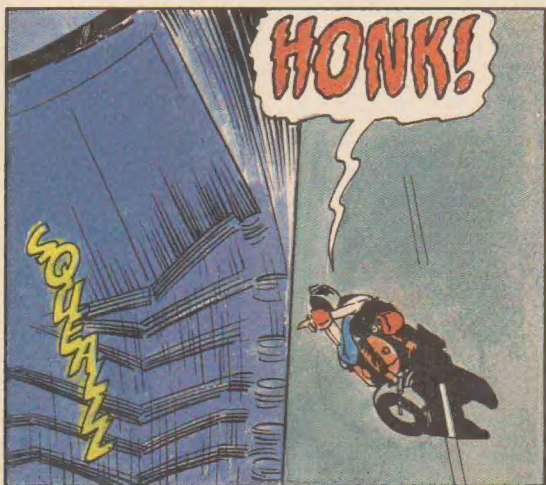
PENCILLER

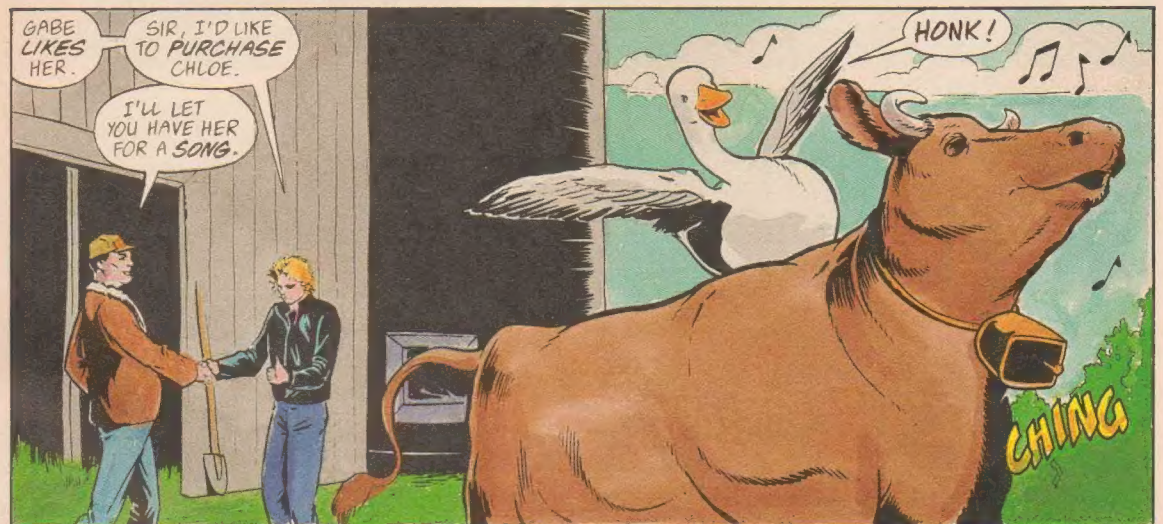
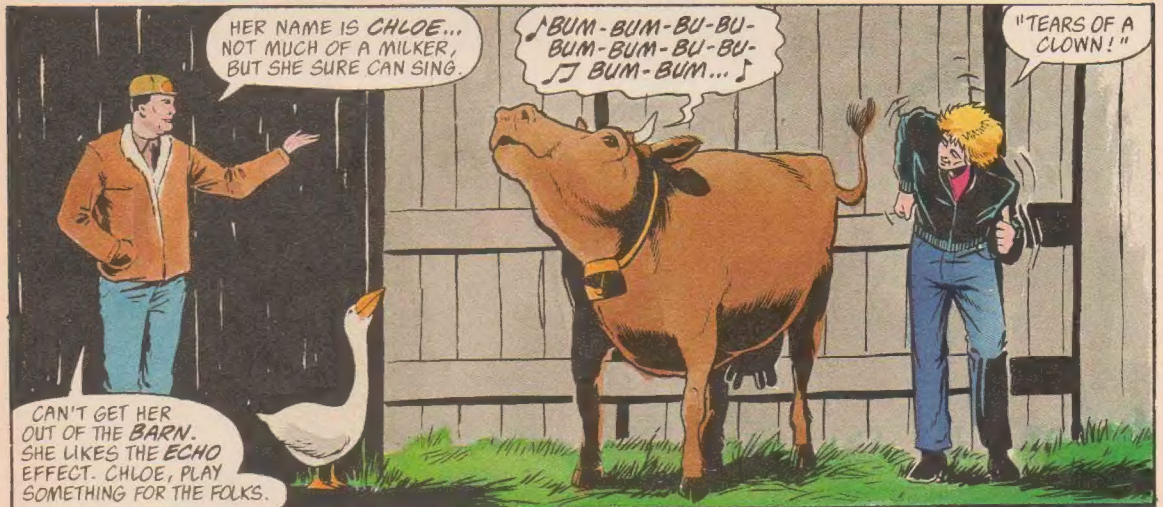
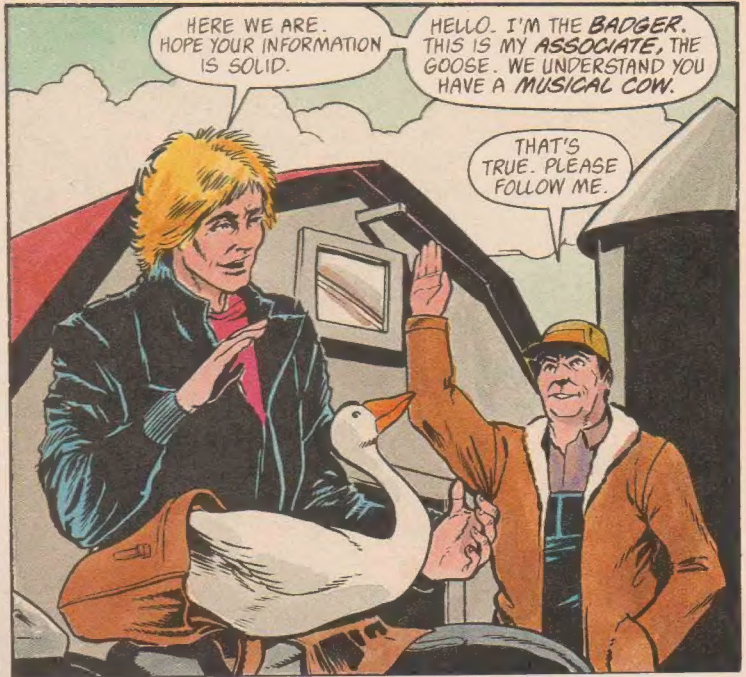
INKER

LETTERER

COLORIST

EDITOR



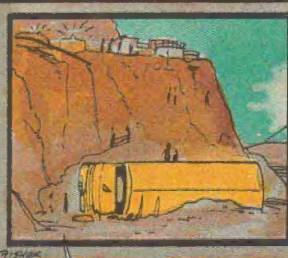




THE FOLLOWING DAY...



TRAGEDY STRUCK
BESIEGE, MISSOURI
TODAY WHEN A BUS CARRYING
THE BESIEGE HIGH SCHOOL
MARCHING BAND WENT OFF THE
ROAD DURING A RAINSTORM...



TWO STUDENTS ARE DEAD AND
NINE ARE INJURED. THE BAND WAS
ON ITS WAY TO THE TRI-COUNTY
AIRPORT TO GREET JAPANESE
INDUSTRIALIST TAK SAKIMOTO, WHO
IS CHOOSING A SITE FOR HIS
NEW FACTORY.

ED, THAT'S A FINE
PIECE OF WORK.
BUT WE CAN'T HAVE
THE SAME THING
HAPPEN IN NASHUA--
IT WOULD RAISE TOO
MANY EYEBROWS.

DON, I'VE GOT SOMETHING
ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FOR
NASHUA...

AND THE BEAUTY
OF IT IS, SAKIMOTO
HIMSELF HAS UNWIT-
TINGLY SUPPLIED THE
MEANS TO ELIMINATE
NASHUA.

ED, WE'RE IN MIGHTY
DEEP ALREADY.
NOBODY BARGAINED
FOR MURDER.

THEY'LL NEVER BE ABLE
TO TRACE A THING BACK TO
YOU, OR TO ME.

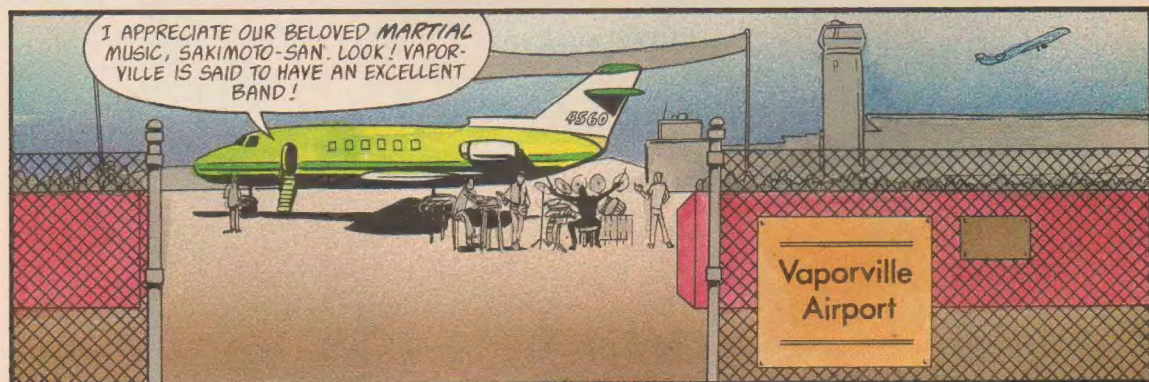
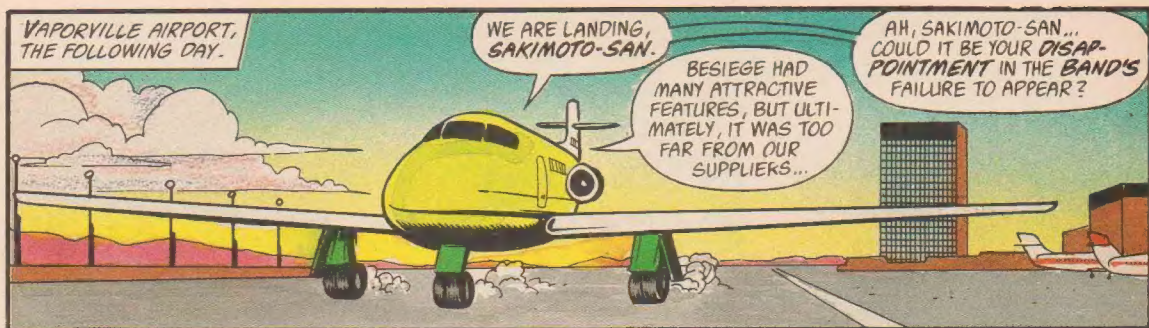
YOU JUST MAKE SURE
YOU PUT ON A HELL OF A
SHOW TOMORROW, WHEN
SAKIMOTO COMES TO
VAPORVILLE!

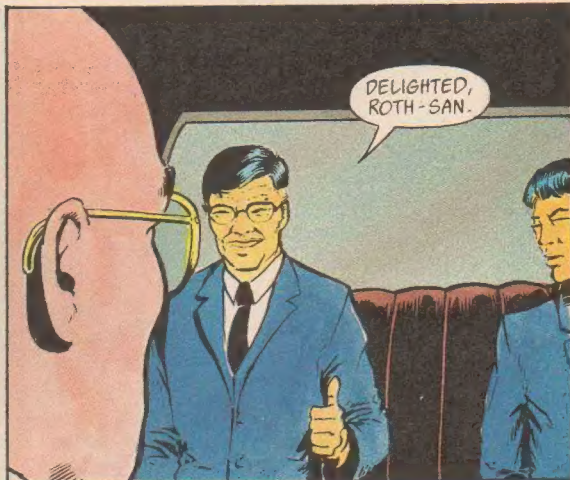
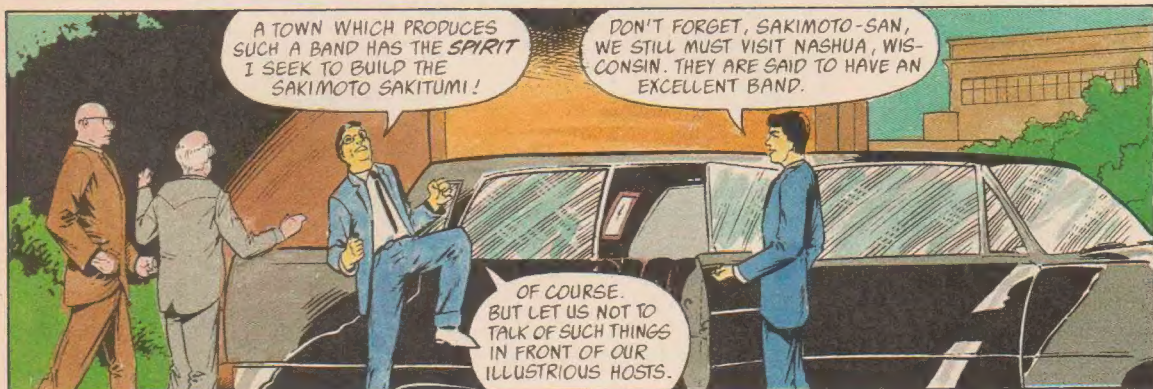
WE'VE GOT A BAND OF NEW
YORK **STUDIO MUSICIANS**
INCLUDING THE BRECKER
BROTHERS AND BILLY COBHAM.
THEY'VE BEEN **REHEARSING**
ALL WEEK.

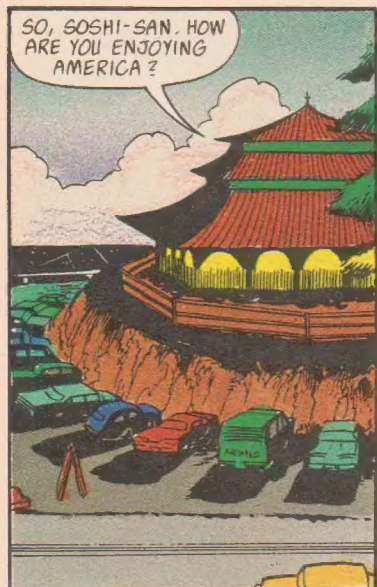
WE'VE GOT A
LIST OF SAKIMOTO'S
FAVORITE SONGS. HE'S
A JAZZ NUT! WE'RE
CUTTING A LIVE
RECORD AT THE AIRPORT.

ARE YOU
COMING?

WOULDN'T
MISS IT.

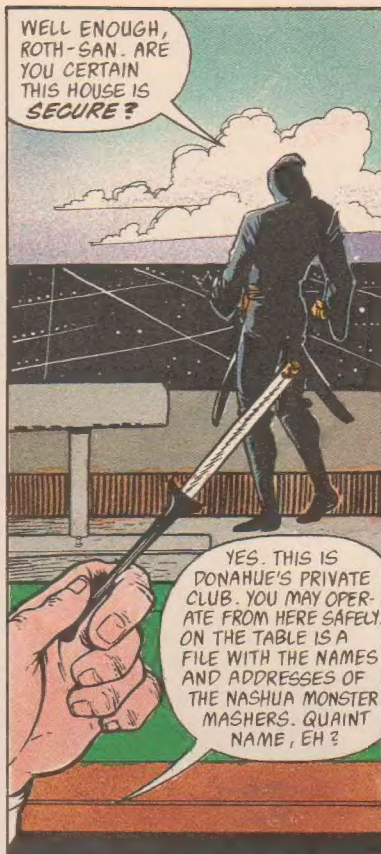






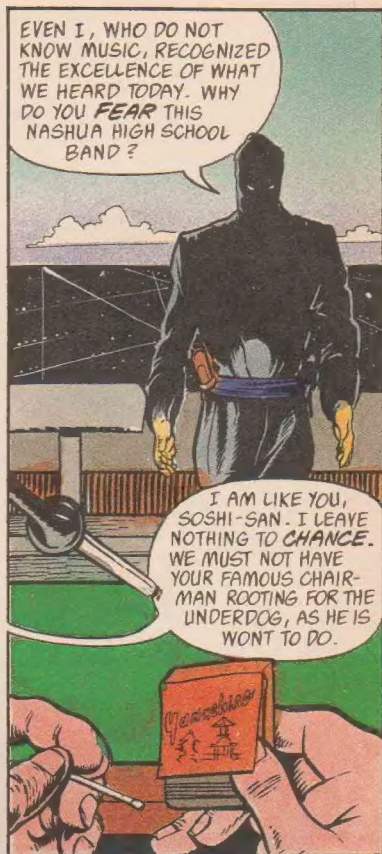
SO, SOSHI-SAN. HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING AMERICA?

SAKIMOTO IS AN OLD FOOL! HE IS HIDE-BOUND BY TRADITION. IF HE KNEW I WERE OF THE **UGERY NINJA CLAN** HE'D COME FOR ME HIMSELF! IF, BY SOME MIRACLE, HE WOULD SURVIVE, HE WOULD FEEL COMPELLED TO COMMIT **SEPPUKU**.



WELL ENOUGH, ROTH-SAN. ARE YOU CERTAIN THIS HOUSE IS **SECURE**?

YES. THIS IS DONAHUE'S PRIVATE CLUB. YOU MAY OPERATE FROM HERE SAFELY. ON THE TABLE IS A FILE WITH THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF THE NASHUA MONSTER MASHERS. QUAIN NAME, EH?



EVEN I, WHO DO NOT KNOW MUSIC, RECOGNIZED THE EXCELLENCE OF WHAT WE HEARD TODAY. WHY DO YOU **FEAR** THIS NASHUA HIGH SCHOOL BAND?

I AM LIKE YOU, SOSHI-SAN. I LEAVE NOTHING TO **CHANGE**. WE MUST NOT HAVE YOUR FAMOUS CHAIRMAN ROOTING FOR THE UNDERDOG, AS HE IS WONT TO DO.



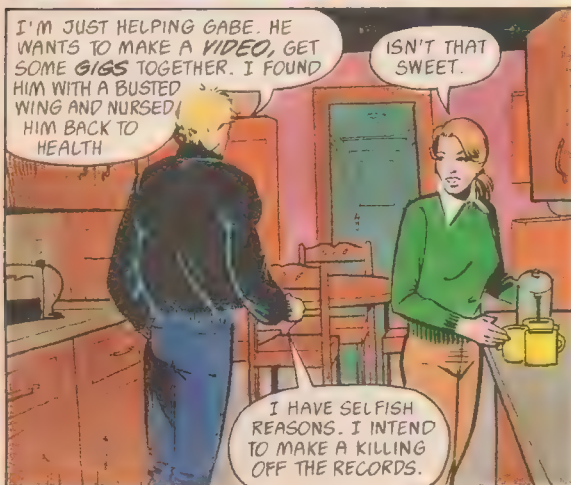
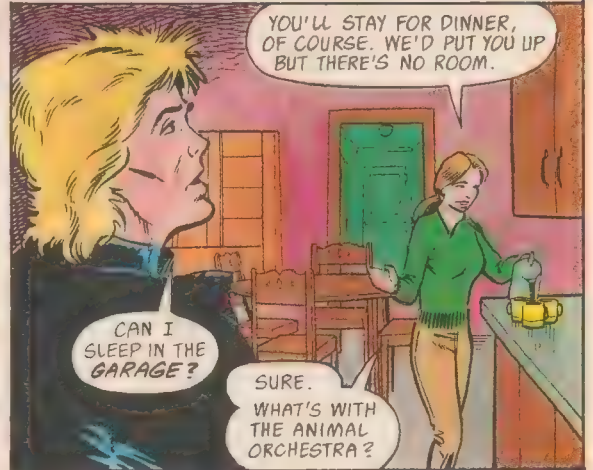
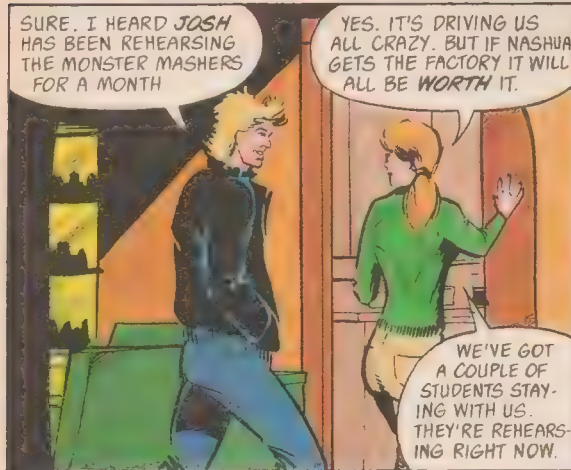
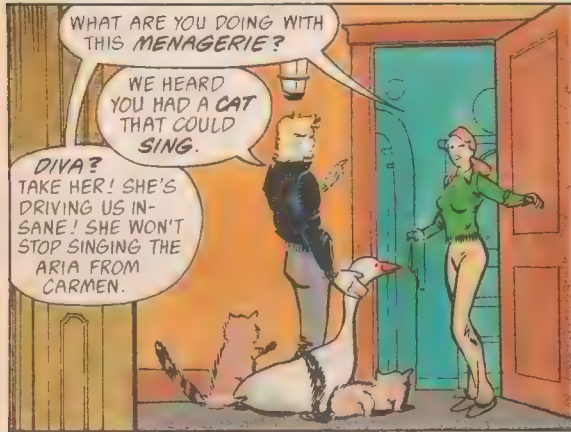
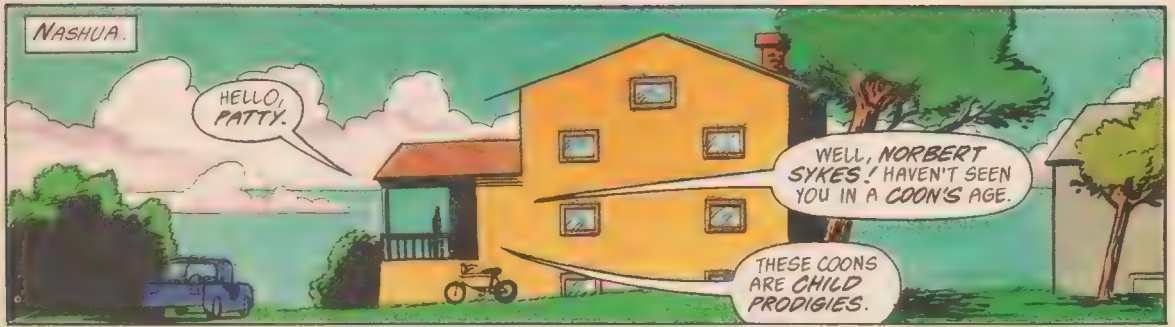
BUT, AFTER HE CHOOSES VAPORVILLE OVER NASHUA, HE WILL MEET WITH AN UNFORTUNATE **ACCIDENT**. EVERYBODY KNOWS AMERICA IS A **VIOLENT**, LAWLESS PLACE.

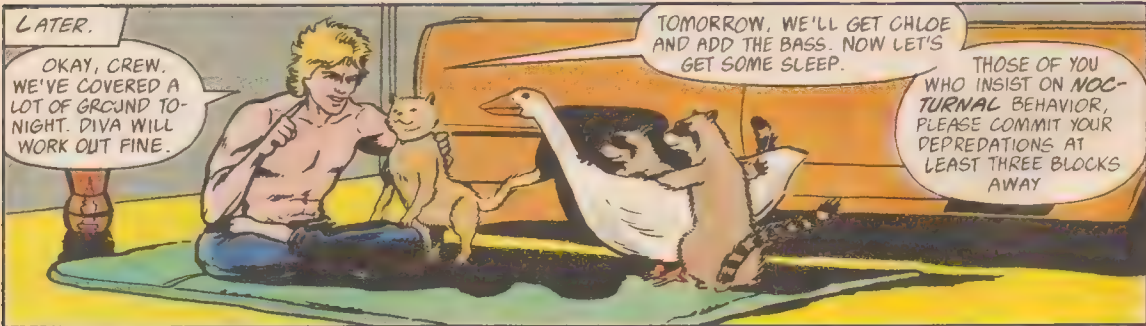
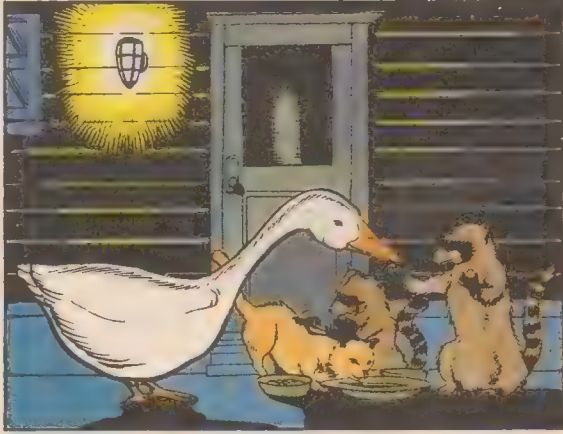
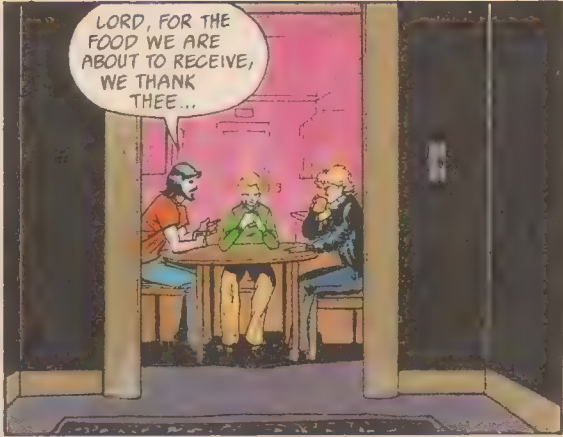
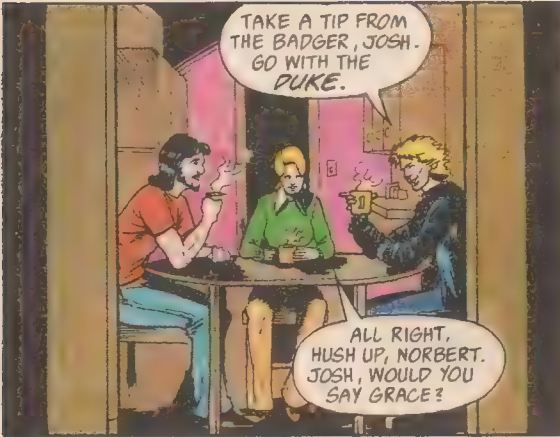


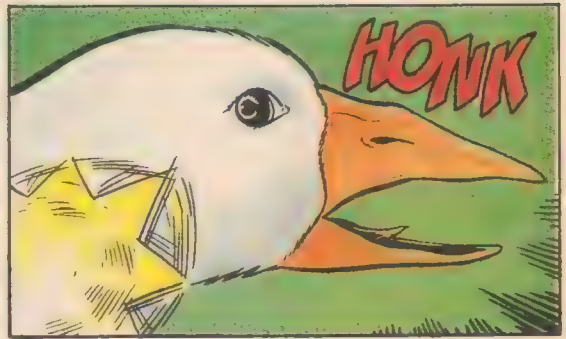
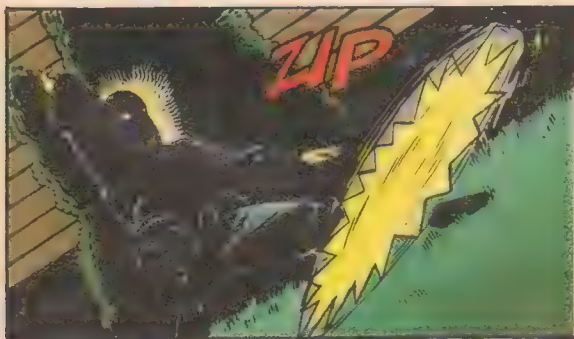
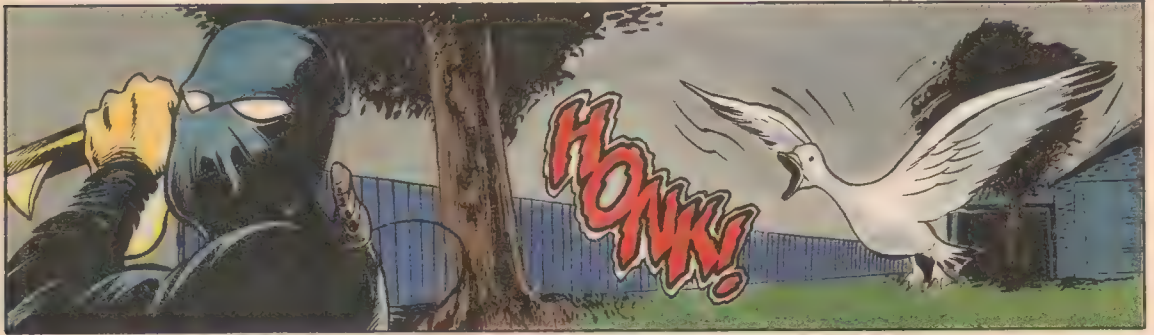
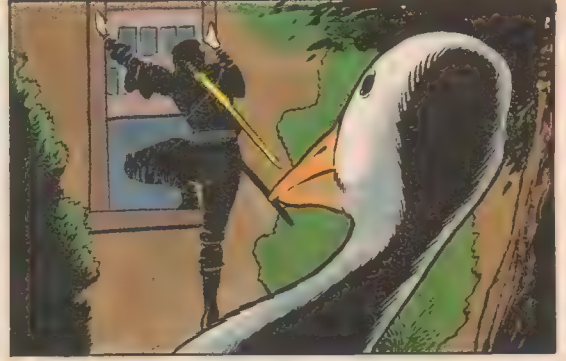
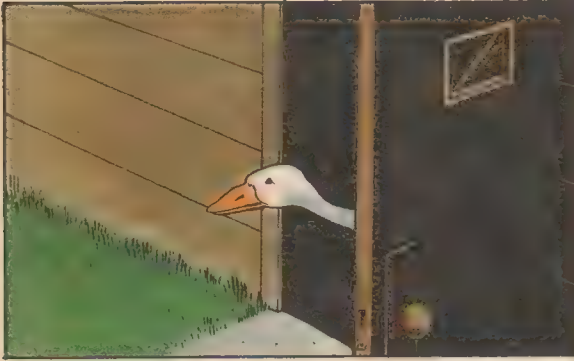
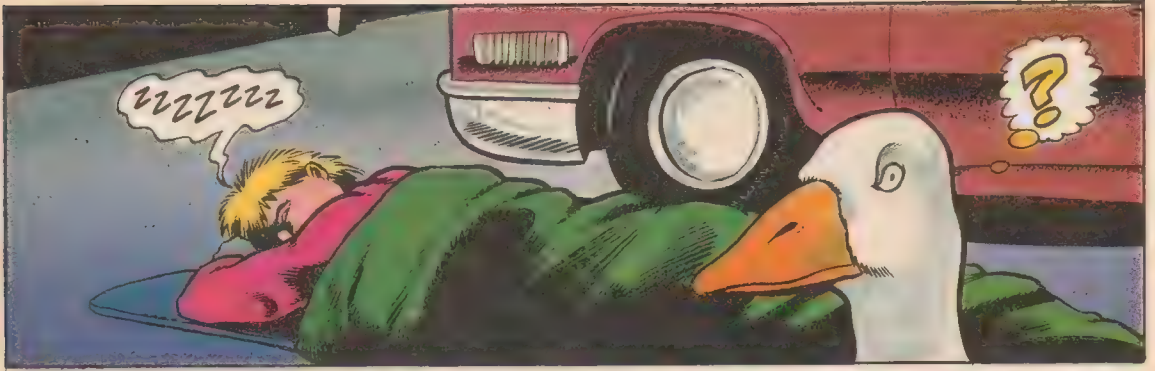
LET ME KNOW IF YOU NEED ANY **HELP**.



I VERY MUCH DOUBT IT, ROTH-SAN. BUT THANK YOU ANYWAY.







FIRST

PERSON SINGULAR

Random Remarks by the Editor

HOW TO REPLACE YOURSELF WITH A COMPUTER

Today I decided not to go into the office anymore. I'm not going to stop working or anything like that — the people who *really* own all the swell stuff in my house won't let me. But I just realized that there wasn't any reason to actually *leave* the house and go to the office.

Let me explain:

Four years ago I bought a computer. A Macintosh. It was kind of cute looking. I used it to do ~~some~~ freelance writing. It paid for itself in six months. I became addicted to word processing.

Three years ago I got an "upgrade," which is a lot like moving up

make-up programs to set all the type for this column — in *position*. Everything you see on this page came out of a computer, looking just the way you see it now. And I did it myself.

So what's the point?

This year I bought a modem. A modem is a handy little device that links your computer to other computers through the telephone lines. Now I could send information over the telephone. Until now, I had resisted buying a modem, because they seemed to be of little use, except to talk to people over the phone using a keyboard instead of your mouth (and leave a potentially embarrassing

"A modem seemed to be of little use, except to talk to people over the phone using a keyboard instead of your mouth."

a grade in school. In layman's terms: I made my computer smarter. I became addicted to information processing. I started taking my "portable" (it has a handle) computer to the office.

Two years ago I convinced the publisher that, instead of another typewriter, what the office really needed was a computer — coincidentally, just like the one I had at home. I stopped bringing my computer to the office... for awhile. After about two months, I had to wait in line to use the computer that nobody else wanted to buy. I got another upgrade for my computer, and suddenly I just couldn't live without all its expanded features. I had forgotten how to use a typewriter. I began to bring my computer to the office again.

Last year, I convinced the publisher that we needed 1) a LaserWriter printer for typeset quality printing, and 2) another computer — in my office. He fell for it.

I did *everything* on the computer. I wrote memos. I projected publishing schedules through the year 2000. I became the de facto in-house typesetter, using electronic page

printed record of all the dumb things you say).

But now I could do things like write letters columns, typeset them, arrange camera-ready type in position on the page, all in the comfort of my own home — and then transmit them over the telephone and have them print out at the office. I began to work at home several days a week. Nobody noticed.

I set up an "office" in our spare bedroom. I got more work done in four hours at home than I would in eight at the office. I spent zero commuting time and never had to worry about where to go for lunch. (We only have one refrigerator, and it's always conveniently located in the kitchen.) I felt more relaxed. Heck, some days I got so relaxed I didn't even get dressed! I had time to spend with my two incomprehensible daughters. I was having fun.

So I've decided not to go into the office anymore. And with any luck, until that publishing schedule runs out in the year 2000, nobody will notice.

—Rick Oliver

FIRST IN APRIL

Lone Wolf and Cub #12: By Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima. Cover and introduction by Frank Miller. 64 pages. Perfect bound. Black-and-white. \$2.50.

Badger #38: By Mike Baron and Neil Hansen. \$1.75.

Nexus #47: The Nexus/Badger crossover continues. By Mike Baron and Steve Rude. \$1.75.

Grimjack #49: By John Ostrander and Tom Mandrake. \$1.75.

Whisper #15: By Steven Grant and Spyder. \$1.75.

Howard Chaykin's American Flagg! #4: By Howard Chaykin and company. \$1.75.

Crossroads #2: By Mike Baron, Angel Medina and Rod Whigham. Sable and Badger meet for the first time. Prestige Format. 48 pages. \$3.25.

Elric: Bane of the Black Sword #1: By Roy Thomas, Mark Pacella and Nicholas Koenig. \$1.75.

Hawkmoon: The Runestaff #2: By Mark Shalblum and Rafael Kayanan. \$1.75.

Sable #6: By Marv Wolfman and Bill Jaaska. \$1.75.

GRAPHIC NOVELS

Hexbreaker: A Badger Graphic Novel. By Mike Baron and Bill Reinhold. 64 pages. \$8.95.

Hawkmoon: The Jewel in the Skull. By Gerry Conway, Rafael Kayanan and Rico Rival. 120 pages. \$9.95.



6

LONE WOLF *and* CUB^{T.M.} YEAR TWO

A glimpse into the
Lone Wolf's past!

Itto Ogami becomes the
Shogun's Officer of
Death... and takes
his first step down the
dark road to Hell!

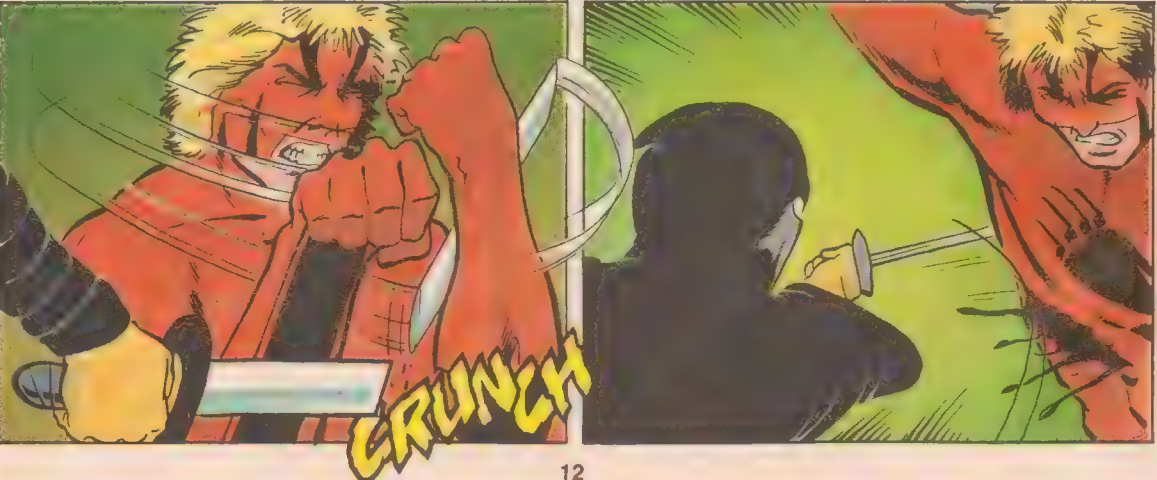
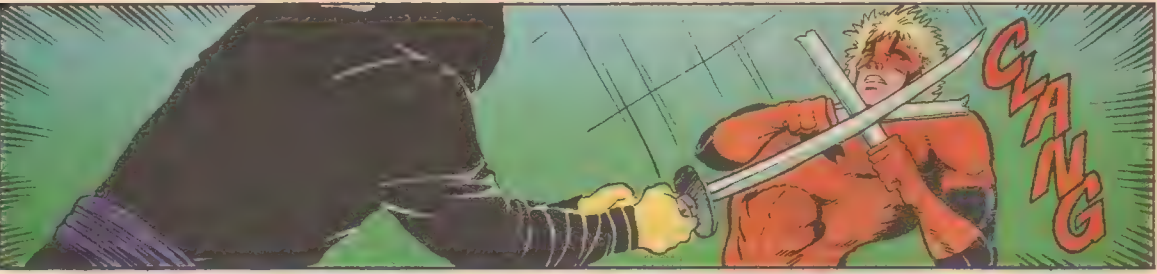
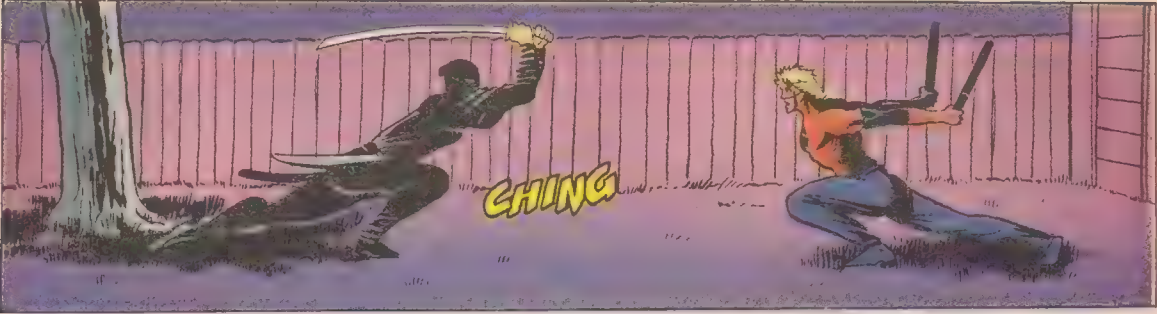
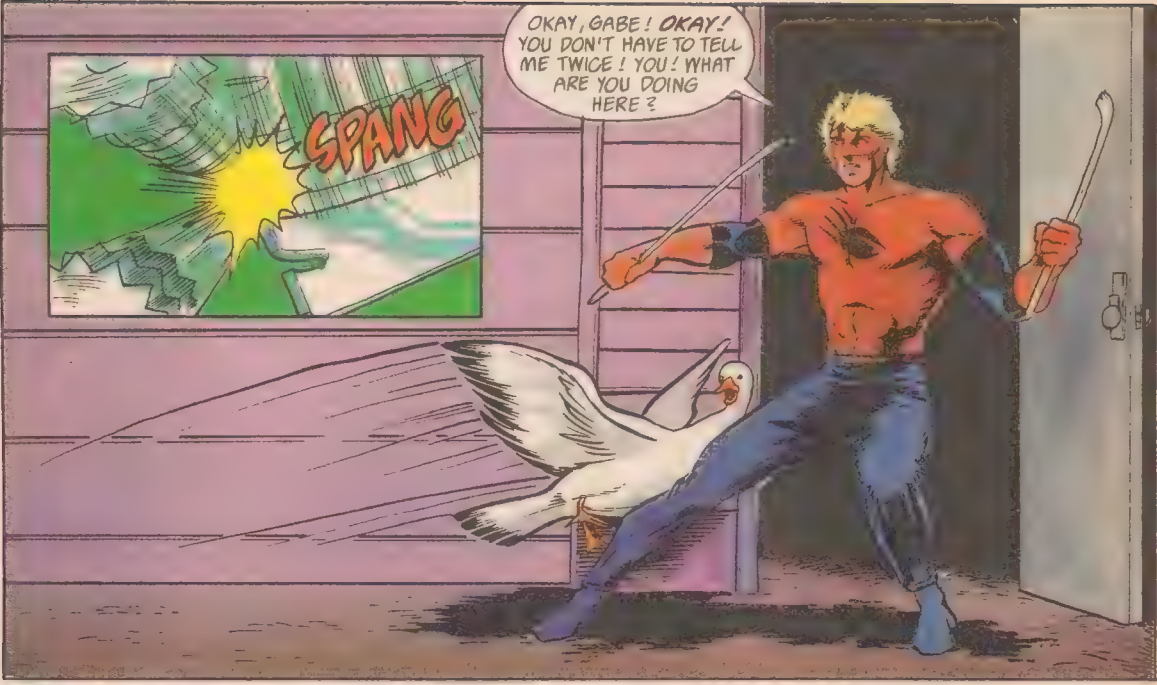
Lone Wolf and Cub #13
by Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima

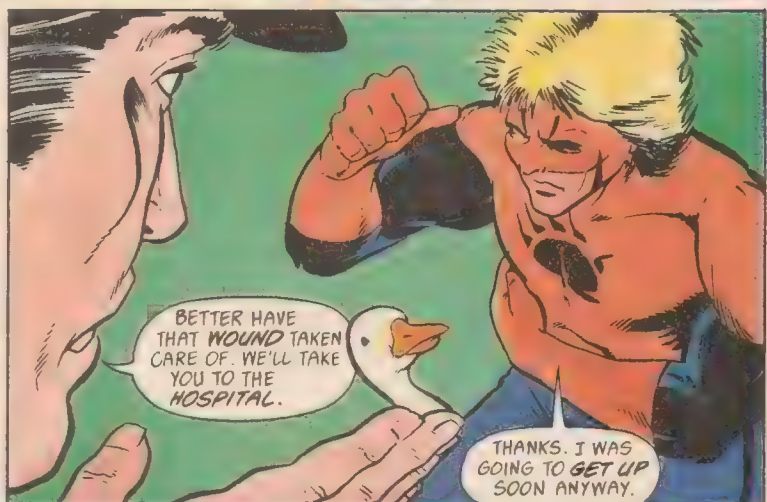
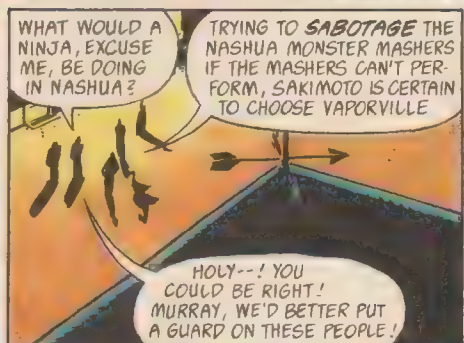
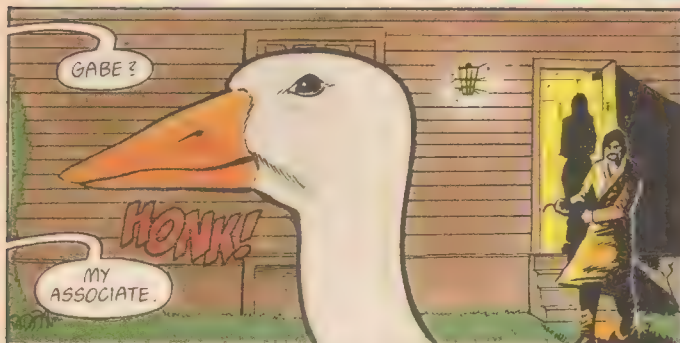
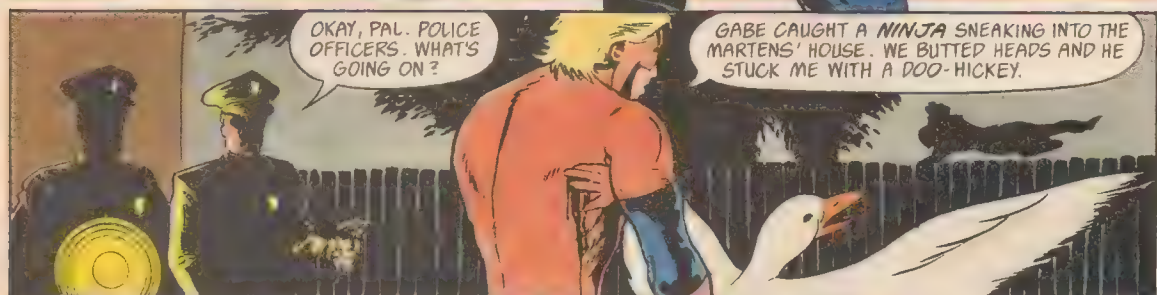
NEW COVER ARTIST
BILL SIENKIEWICZ

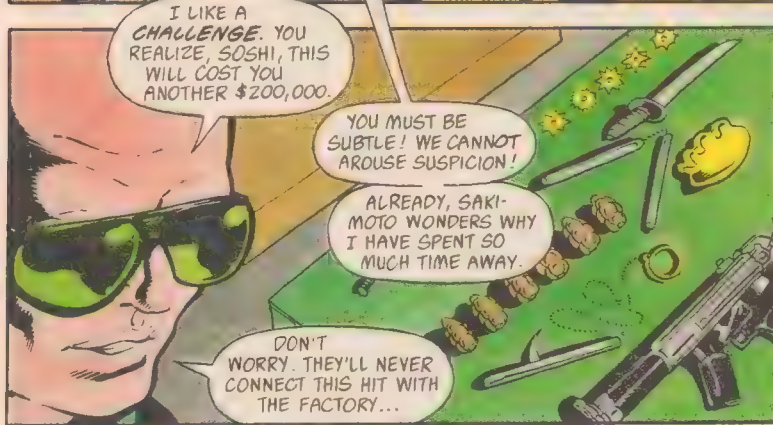
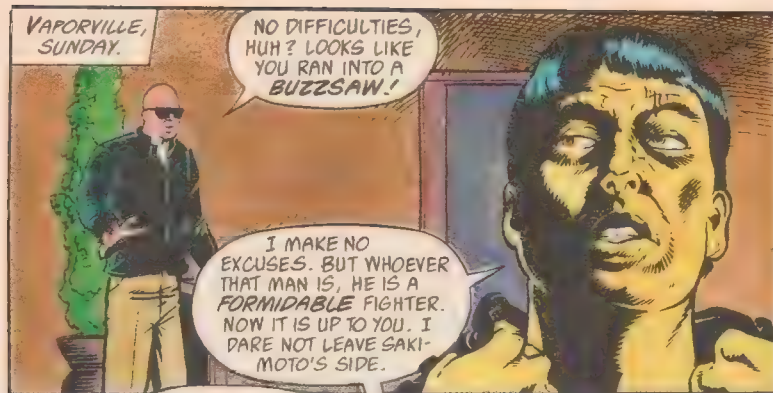
Coming in May from

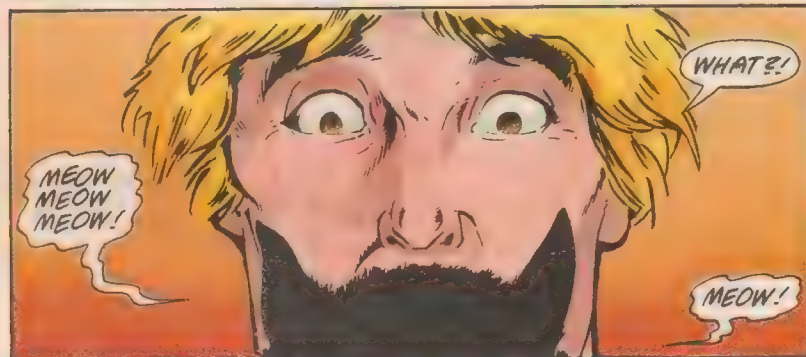
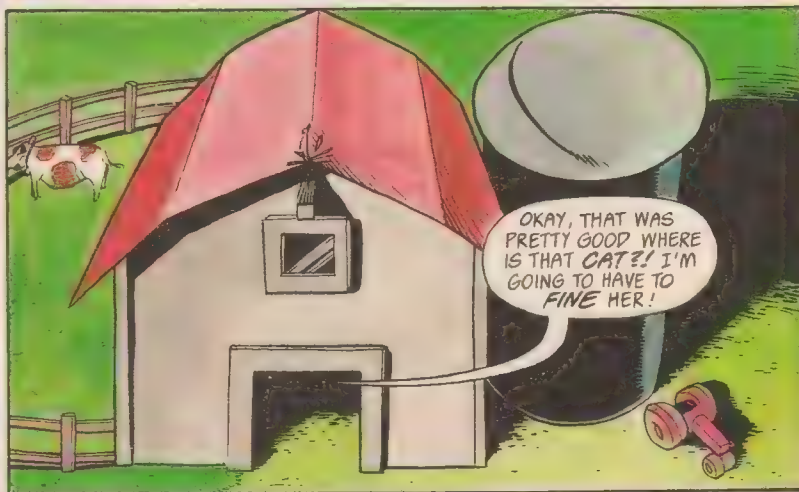
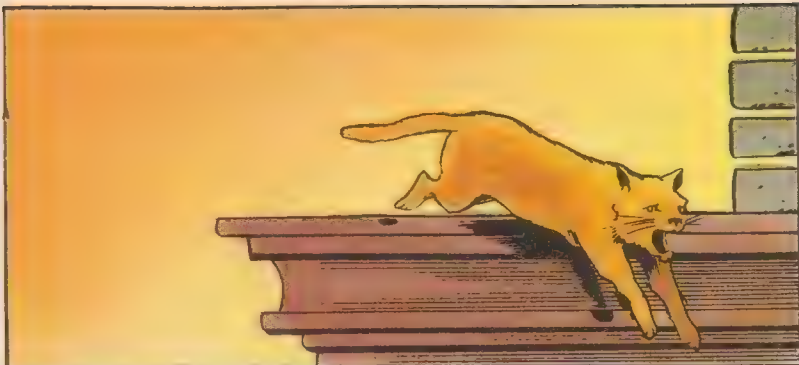
FIRST
PUBLISHING

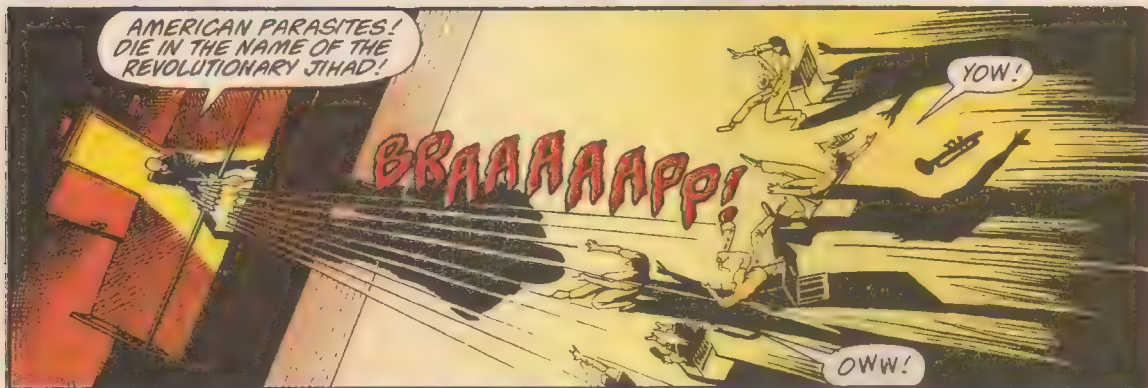
TM & © 1988 FIRST COMICS, INC.
and GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS CORP.

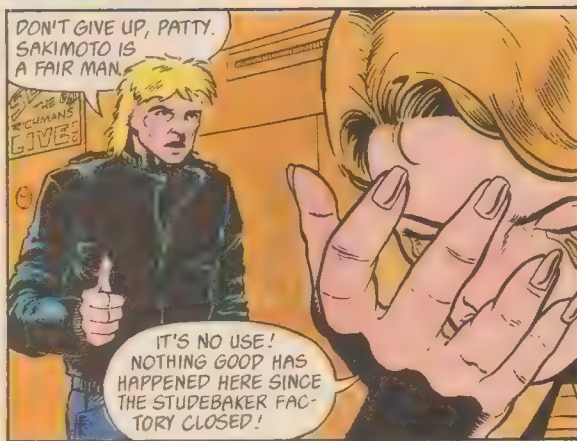
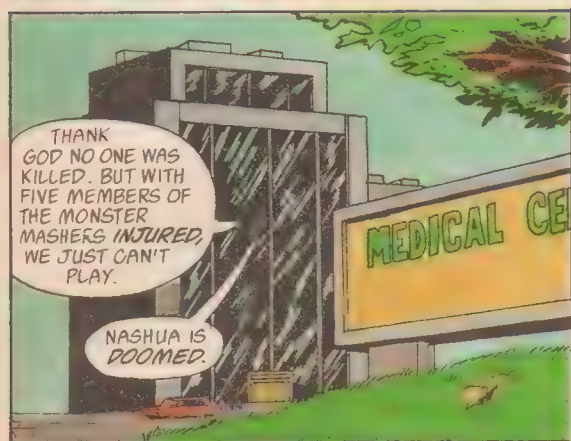












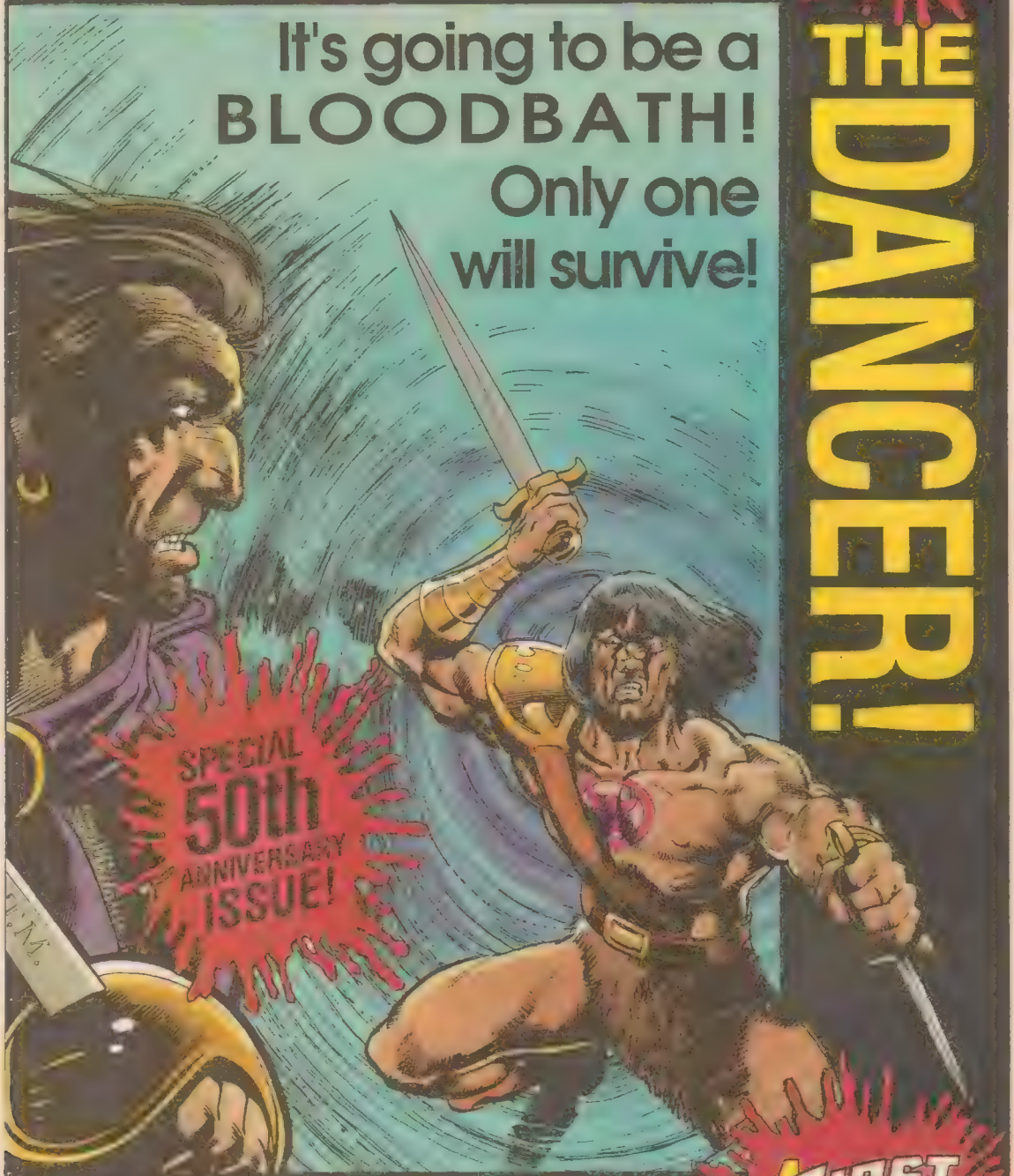
GRIMJACK

VS.

THE DANGER!

It's going to be a
BLOODBATH!

Only one
will survive!



Coming in May from

FIRST
COMICS



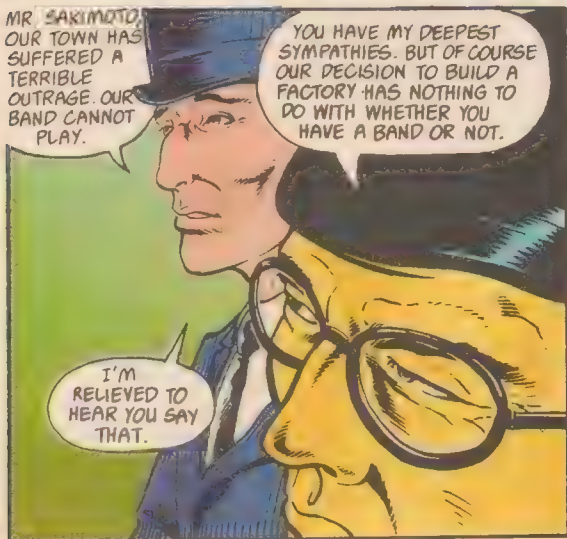
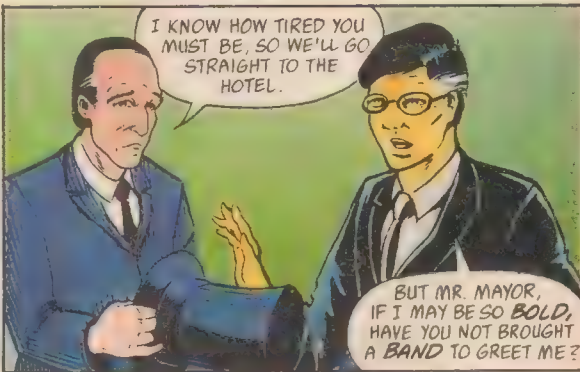
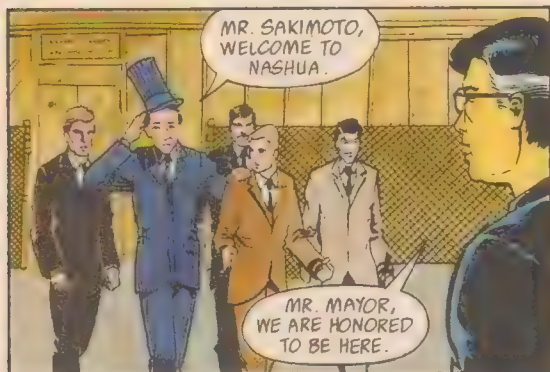
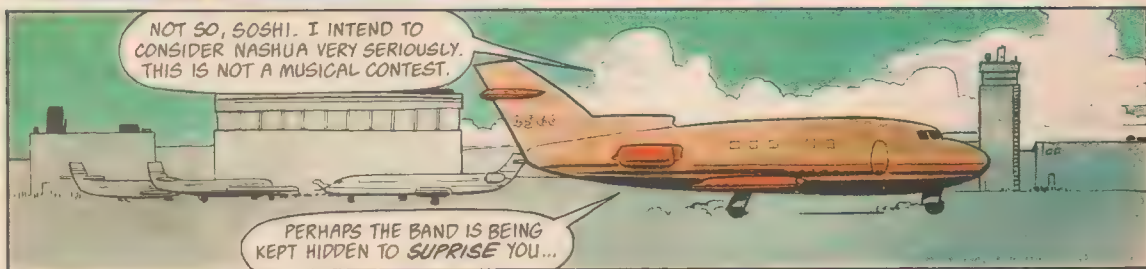
IT'S A HIT!

The new
monthly adventures of
Whisper continue...?

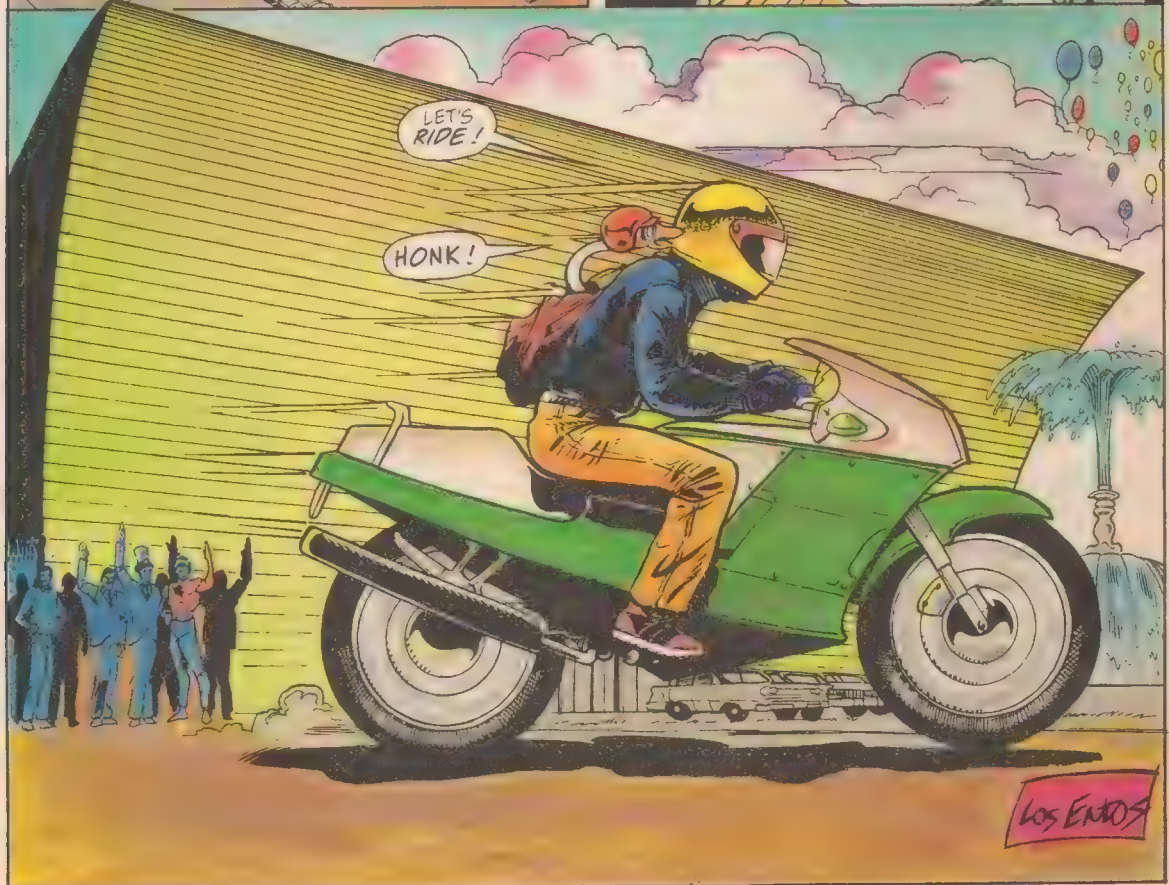
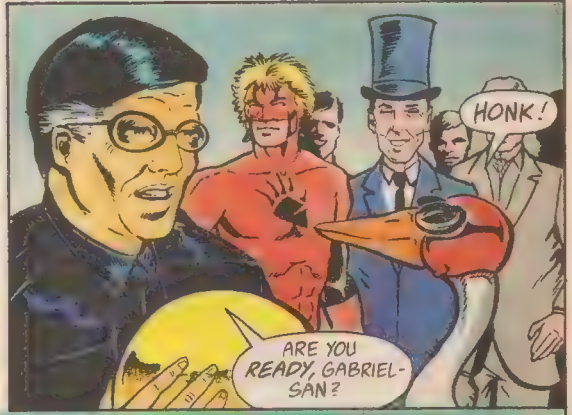
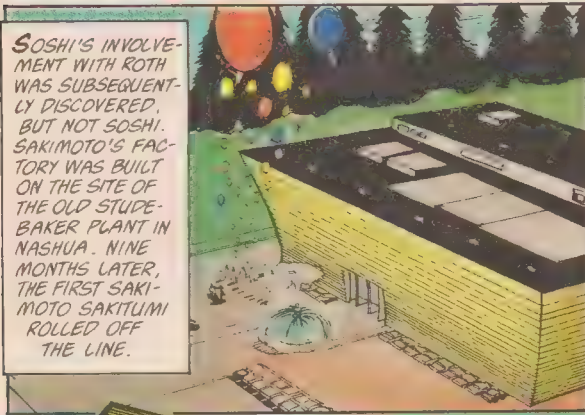
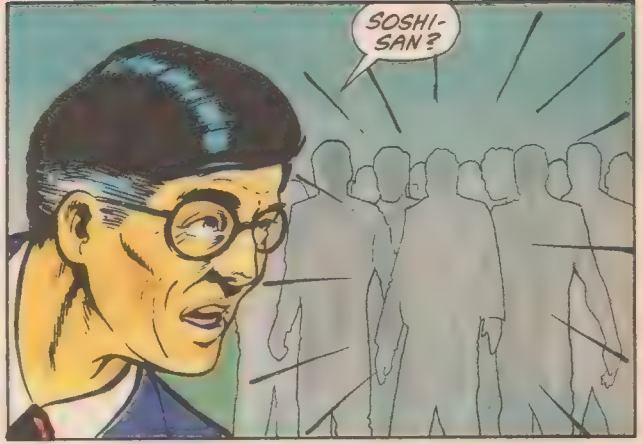
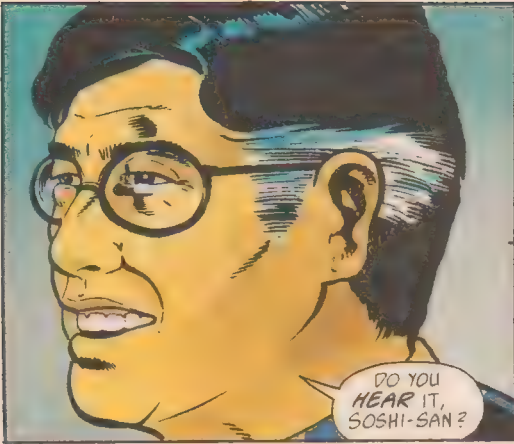
By Steven Grant
and Spyder

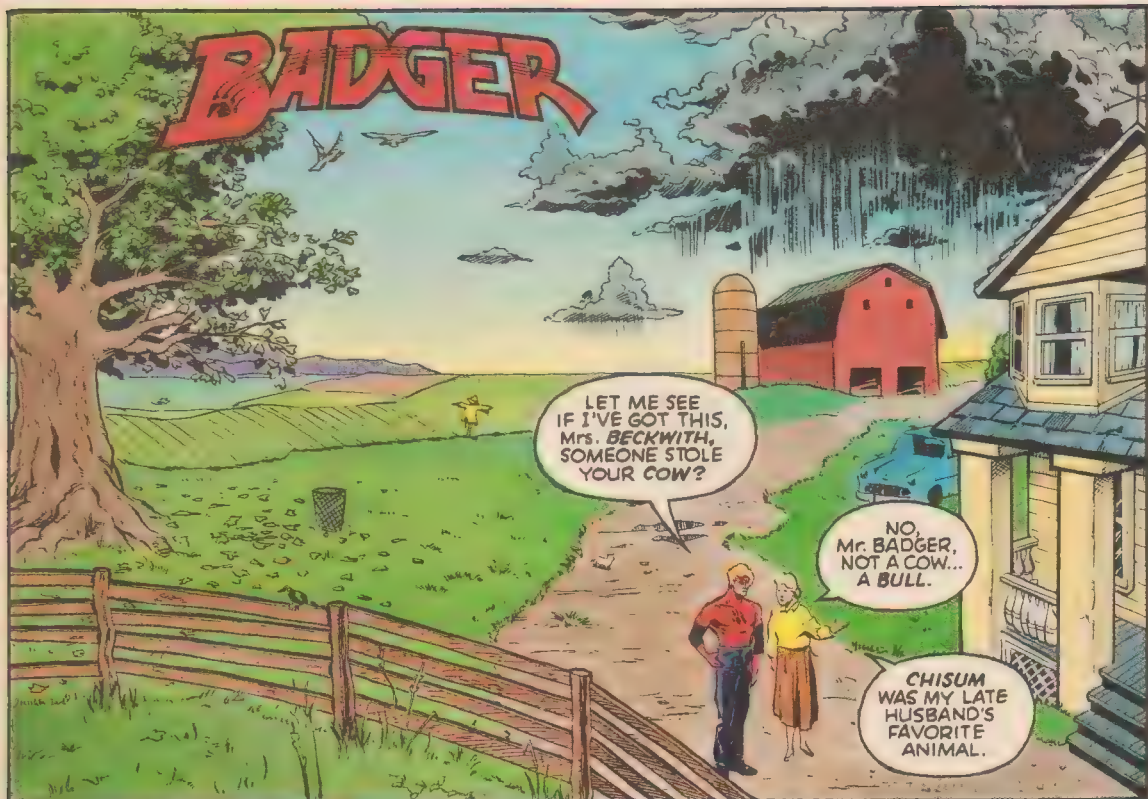
Whisper
#16

Coming in May from **FIRST**
COMICS



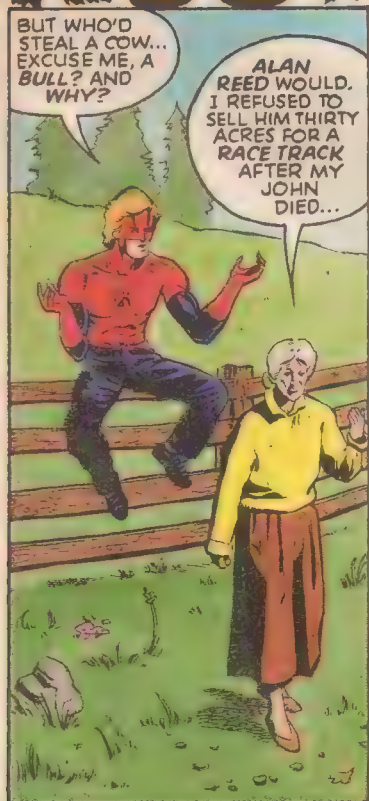


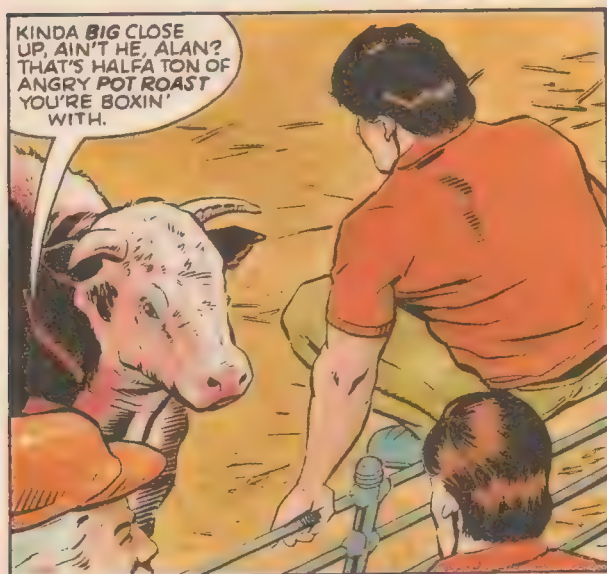
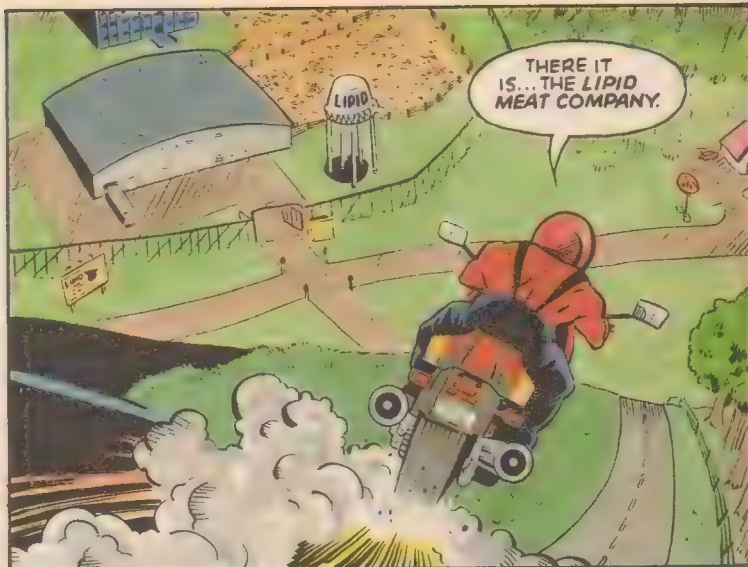
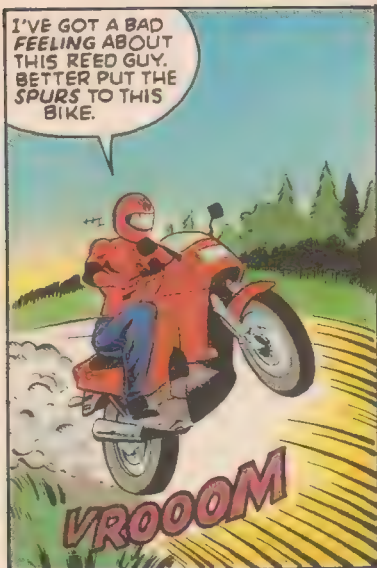


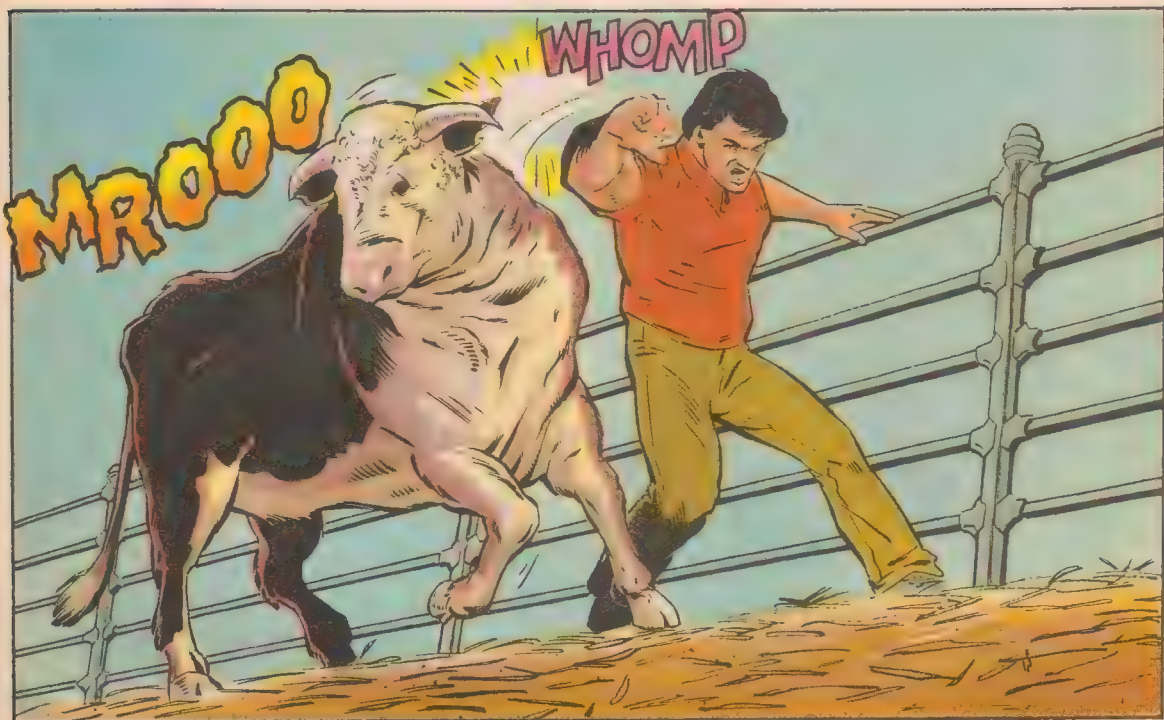


RUSTLER

Roger Salick- writer
 Britt Wisenbaker- Penciller
 Ralph Cabrera- inker
 L. Lois Buhalis-letterer
 Linda Lessmann- colorist
 Rick Oliver- editor

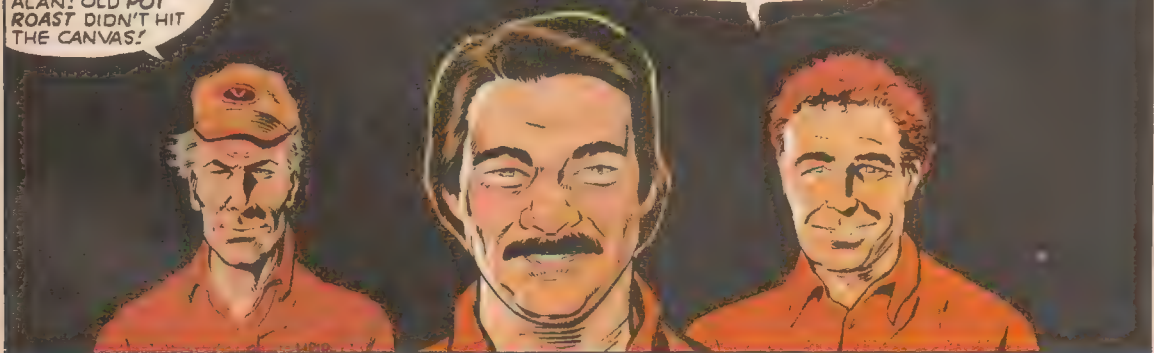






HAR! YOU OWE ME
A HUNERD BUCKS,
ALAN! OLD POT
ROAST DIDN'T HIT
THE CANVAS!

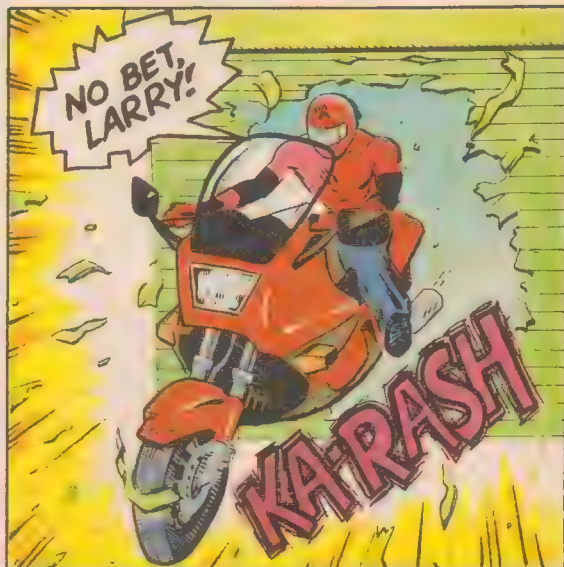
CLOSE, BUT NO SEE-GAR,
BUDDY. PAY UP.

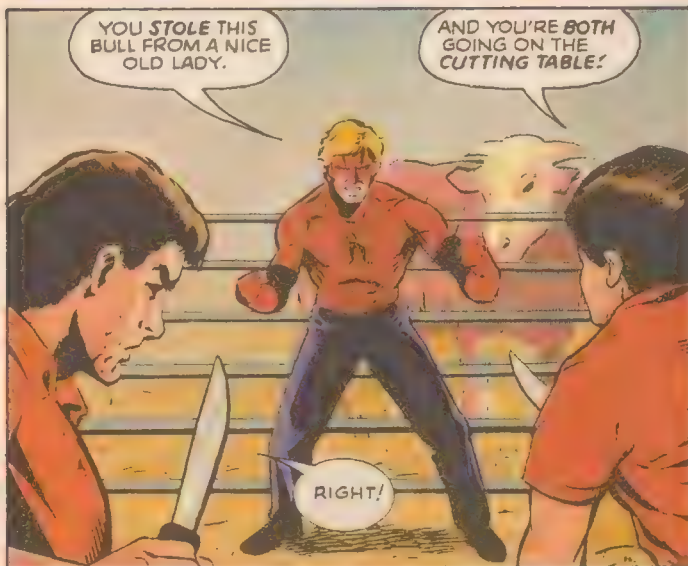


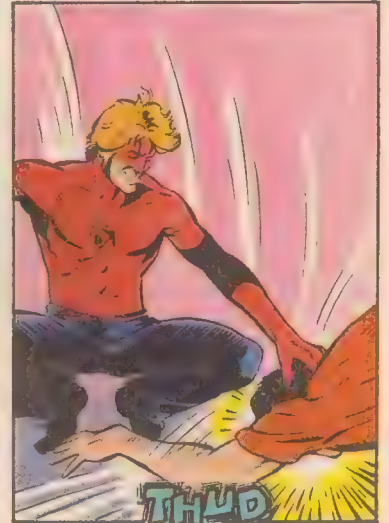
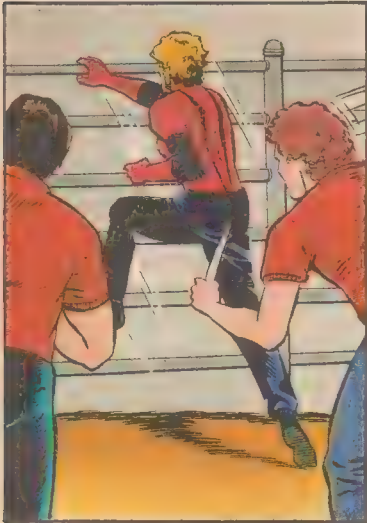
NO! I DAMNED NEAR
DROPPED IT! TELL YOU
WHAT... DOUBLE OR
NOTHIN'!

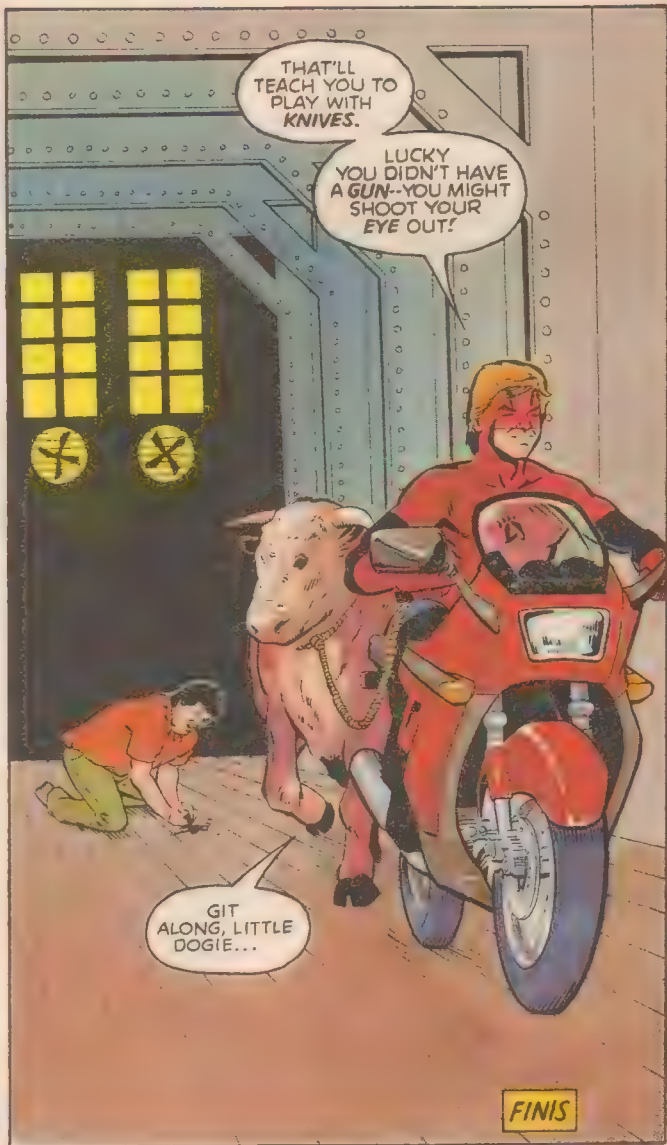
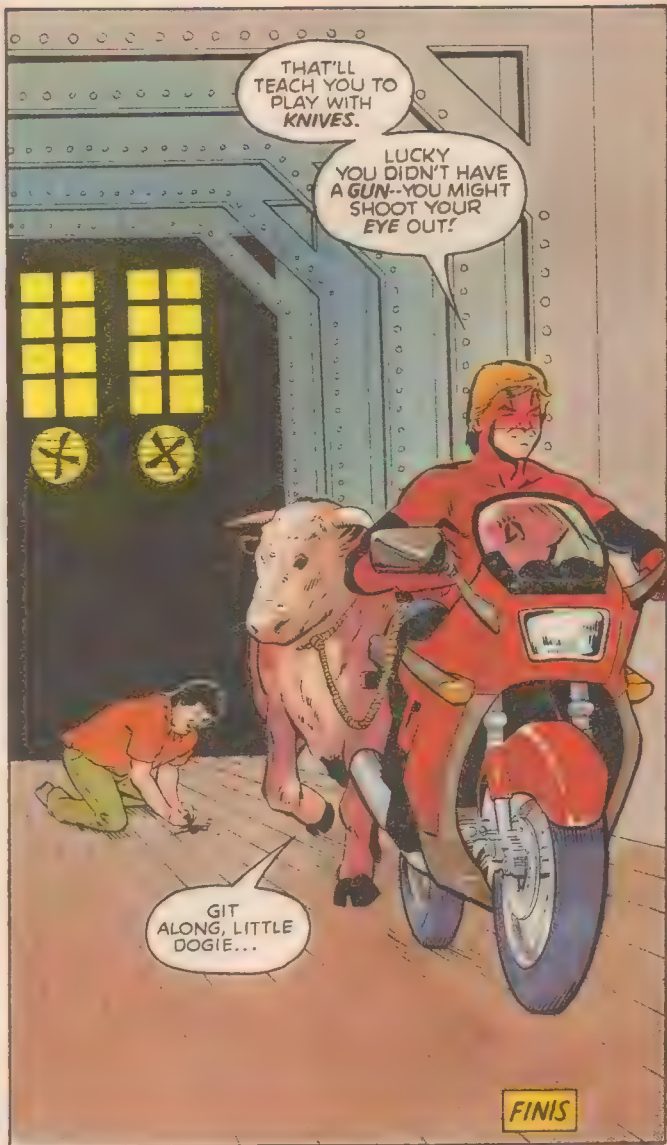


NO BET,
LARRY!









FINIS

Dear LARRY,:

C/O FIRST COMICS
435 N. LASALLE
CHICAGO IL
60610

Mike,

You schmuck, beware the tide of luck — it may run out.

In reference to issue #35 (and mind you, I have only read it up to page 11), you've titillated my taste for the distasteful, and what a mouthfull! Freakin' demons, deadly weapons, rock-n-roll, living sacrifice, the only problem is I'm afraid you've made our darkest desires popular, not the actual realizing of them, but the voyeuristic pleasure.

And I'm concerned because we've reached a period where the governments of comic fans all over the world are looking for "safe" topics to condemn such as picketing the price-hike of movie tickets, and censorship of "kiddie" litter-ature, instead of trying to make the world a better place.

It's been proven: when man loses his channels (we're not even talking about a child's mental development) to vent what he (or she) stores up in their minds, they're forced to act them out in perhaps a more subdued fashion. Example: the arsehole named Wertham. Seduction of the Innocent. Well, who's innocent today? Even in Wisconsin? I'm from the Bronx.

So the Comics Journal does what it can (and quite well) by interviewing Miller and Moore. But we need more. Jerry Falwell vs. Larry Flynt. Yo, Larry, I'm pullin' for ya', bud. Even Berke Breathed will be affected.

Mike, you gotta keep the hard edge. I'm 22, three college degrees, obey the laws, enjoy life. Sick fictional individuals don't bother me when they're on paper.

In fact, they make for excellent case studies of human nature. It's only when sick fictional individuals are elected to office that violence, racial wars, poverty, and greed *really* affect us.

Arthur Salazar
830 Blackwood Drive
San Diego, CA 92154

Yeah, but at least we get to vote for the sick, fictional individual of our choice. Personally, I think I'll go with Pat Robertson. In the words of Berke Breathed, "This time, why not the worst?"

Dear Larry:

I must compliment First Comics on a really great comic, Badger; but that's all I'm complimenting.

I've noticed lately in the readers' mail section an increasing number of "for" and "against" Clonezone letters. After reading their views, I thought I should reach one of my own, so I read my first (and 2nd last) Clonezone. I was appalled.

How did such a little nothing story squirm its way into Badger anyway? It makes me angry when I have to actually pay for Clonezone when all I want to read is Badger. I get shortchanged with a shorter Badger to make room for a six page reptilian excuse for humor.

Why don't your create a Clonezone comic for all his devoted fans? Although I personally don't think Clonezone has enough demand to sell itself separately. So why offload it on

Badger?

Shorten the Badger if need be, or do a small Badger back-up like in issue #35; but kill Clonezone! The next time I see that gator I want it to be in ladies' accessories!

Danny Gibson

Well, Danny, I was all through running Clonezone letters... until I read your fascinating proposal. And now you can look forward to the adventures of... Clonezone the Transvestite!

Dear Mike, Rick (the TV star), Ron, Kurt, and Company:

You wild and crafty guys! You fooled me! Here I am, a veteran comic letter hack, and I thought it would turn out the Badger's dog was the Waffepoof! I really did! But you cheated me on that one. It just goes to show that you people really know what you're doing, and you really have some sort of plot in mind, and I'm only second-guessing.

I feel humbled.

Now that I'm humbled, I'd like to suggest you run a nationwide contest to name Badger's dog. I suggest you call it Basil or Grinder or Evers or Chance and that you never, ever name it Lassie or Boomer or Won Ton Ton or Scruffy. A righteous dog deserves a righteous name. I hope you don't call it Krypto.

Don't you feel it was a cheap trick to conclude a Badger story in a graphic novel (known to all us hardcore fans as a "big expensive comic book printed on wallpaper

"One suggestion I have is to bring some more characters to team-up with Badger: Grimjack, Nexus, Hammer, Anvil, BlacJacMac, Clonezone, to name a few."

that doesn't fit anywhere into a regular collection on your bookshelf") that doesn't come out until March, long after we all know the Badger will live and beat the negative kung curse? I've been looking for the conclusion of that storyline since November, and now in Badger #35 in the advertisement section I find it will not be available until March.

This kills both the suspense and the continuity. A truly bad job of marketing. Boo hiss. This kind of poor planning might ultimately kill both the t-shirt and adjustable baseball cap concession. Please plan your marketing strategies more carefully in the future.

More about issue #35...

I noticed the absence of Clonezone in the back of the book, and if reader response is any indication, you'll be getting horrible letters for excluding the lizard, especially since he was a big hit in the recent "Munden's Bar" Annual (only fourth in fan polls behind Moncuse, Bolland, and everyone else). Fans are rattling the castle doors. Do you hear them?

T.E. Pouncey
Wichita, KS

Hexbreaker: A Badger Graphic Novel is not a continuation of the negative kung storyline; it is a sequel. Badger did, in fact, get Hop Ling Sung to remove the curse in issue #32. So there.

Dear Larry:

Keep the dog. Please, keep

the dog. Badger needs a sidekick, and Dog is it.

This issue (#35) was awesome. It was the second issue I read, and I will read Badger forever. After reading them I bought the last six months worth of back issues, and I have a couple questions:

First of all, who's Larry?

I also realized that at the beginning of issue #31, Badger went to the same Chinese restaurant and met the same chef as the Flash did in Flash Annual #1. Wow. Does this mean there is any chance of Badger meeting the Flash? Please?

Also in #31 and #32, Badger fought hundreds of kung-fu warriors without getting hurt, but in #33 he gets his butt kicked by a bunch of street toughs and has to be saved by a kangaroo.

There was only one problem with issue #35: There was no Tales of Clonezone. How dare you!? Clonezone is awesome! Shakespeare should take lessons from him. His wit, his charm, his charisma — he is a perfect role model for humans and lounge lizards alike!

One suggestion I have is to bring some more characters to team-up with Badger: Grimjack, Nexus, Hammer, Anvil, BlacJacMac, Clonezone, to name a few. How about Badger going to Munden's Bar?

Jason Scott Kanner
942 Roelofs Rd.
Yardley, PA 19067

Well, I think you've won T.E. Pouncey's contest for naming

Badger's dog, Jason. Henceforth, let the dog be known as... Dog!

As for Badger teaming up with other First characters, I don't know... but how about Badger teaming up with Nexus and Judah (the Hammer) in a six-part mini-epic, continuing this month in **Nexus #47**? And how about Badger teaming up with Sable in **Crossroads #2** this month and a Badger/LutherIronheart team-up in **Crossroads #3** next month?

And speaking of next



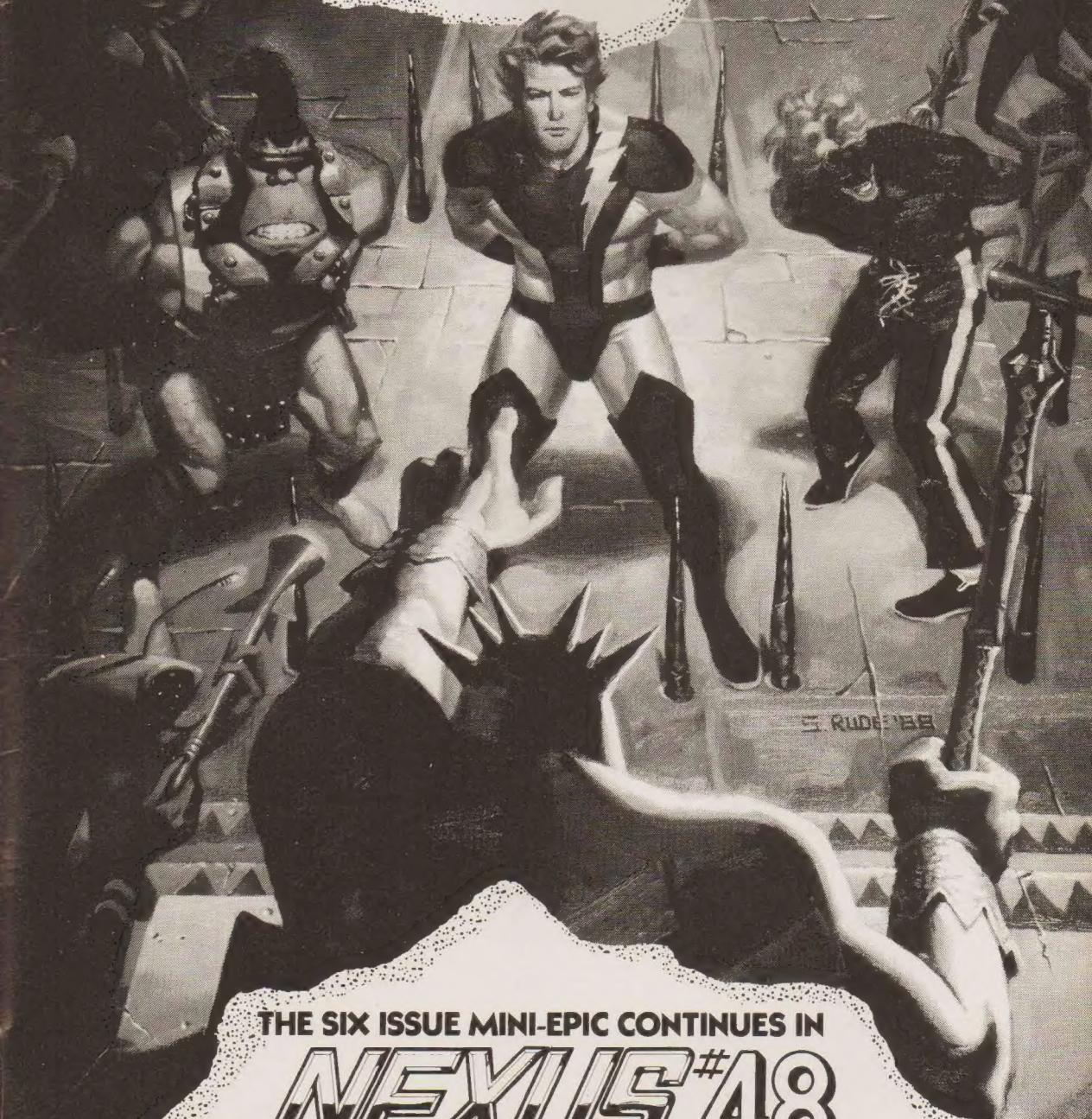
month...

NEXT MONTH: Badger meets the irascible Buddy McBride; Badger and Nexus continue their epic adventure over in the pages of **Nexus**; and Badger teams up with **American Flagg's** Luther Ironheart in **Crossroads #3**! Lucky he's got multiple personalities!

—Rick Oliver

NEXUS AND BADGER

...and Judah, and trials by combat
and fusionkasting aliens
and a fish in
a jar!



THE SIX ISSUE MINI-EPIC CONTINUES IN

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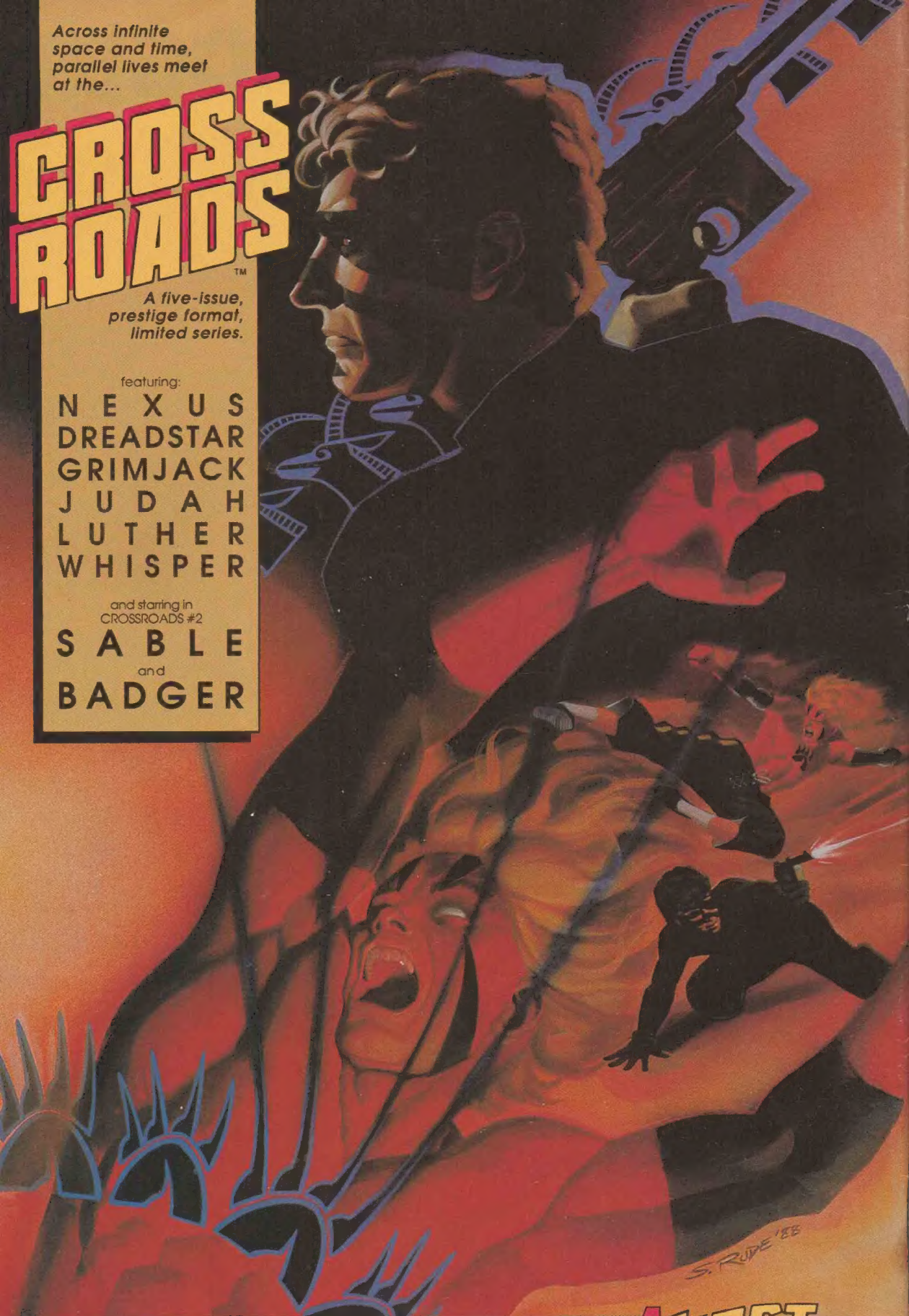
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